



GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

Association of Punjab Geographers

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

Vol. 12 No. 2

July 2011

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Co-Editor : Dr. Rampal Singh

12TH APG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

As notified earlier in the previous issue of the News Letter the 12th APG National Conference is being hosted by the Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, H.P. on October 8-9, 2011.

Focal Theme

Mountain Environment and Natural Resource Management

Sub-Themes

- Natural Hazards and Disaster Management
- Bio-Diversity, Land and Water-Issues and Challenges
- Built-up Environment and Ecological Considerations
- Climate Change-Impacts and Options
- Mountain Communities, Livelihoods and Carrying Capacity
- Geo-spatial Technologies and Natural Resource Planning and Management

Members are requested to start preparing and come up with original research work. For any query, please contact Dr. D.D. Sharma, Head Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla Mob. 09418076763, E-Mail-12apgshimla@gmail.com. The brochure of the conference is being released by the department shortly.

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GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

The News Letter in hand is being published regularly by the APG for over one decade. It is being circulated to large number of institutions having Department of Geography apart from the members of the APG. The News Letter carries information regarding geographical activities like seminars, conferences, refresher courses being arranged by various colleges/ universities at regional/ national level besides activities of the APG and other useful information for geographic community.

A very favourable response and feed back is being received from senior geographers and the readers about the usefulness and contents of the News Letter. We are grateful to all the members for their keen interest and encouragement. Members are requested to keep regular contact with editorial office of the News Letter and keep sending useful information for the members of the APG and Geographic Community at large.

YOUNG GEOGRAPHER AWARD (APG)

Three copies of original research paper along with bio-data of the author who has not attained the age of 35 years, are invited for the Young Geographer Award. The paper should be submitted in English to Dr. B.R. Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla, (E-Mail-brthakur53@gmail.com, Mob-09418065518) who has been authorized by the APG Secretariat to conduct this competition. The papers received later than September 10, 2011 will not be considered for evaluation. The name of the author and department should be mentioned in the covering letter and not on the paper to keep the secrecy.

An expert committee of three geographers will be constituted to evaluate and short list three to five best papers. These papers will be presented in a special session of the conference and one amongst them would be finally selected for Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award. The awardee will be honoured with a cash award of Rs. 1000/-, a memento and a certificate of merit. The paper will be published in the Journal if considered fit for publication.

13TH APG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

University/College Department of Geography interested to host 13th APG National Conference in 2012 may contact Dr. H.S.Mangat Ph. 0175-2286606, E-mail hsmangat@rackeys.com

STATE LEVEL GEOGRAPHICAL QUIZ CONTEST

P.G Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana organized a State Level Inter-College Geographical Quiz Contest under the aegis of the Association of Punjab Geographers on February 12, 2011. Eleven teams from various parts of the state participated. Doaba college Jalandhar won the first prize and trophy, while Govt. College, Ropar and Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala were placed in second and third positions respectively. Dr. Seet Singh, former President of the APG thanked the principal of the college and Dr. Dharm Singh, Head Department of the Geography for their regular co-operation and support to promote the subject of geography.

REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Members are requested to send their original research papers for publication in the next issue of "Punjab Geographer" to Dr. H.S. Mangat, 3037, Urban Estate, Phase-II, Patiala. e-mail- hsmangat@rackeys.com, Phone- 0175-2286606. 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 authors must communicate the original copy/print of the maps indicating the quality of impression. The paper can be withdrawn even from the press if the reproduction of the maps/figs. is not satisfactory.

Note: The authors should note that until they receive the press copy of their paper (excluding maps and figs.) from the editor and return it back with OK report, the paper may not be considered as accepted for publication.

NEWS ABOUT THE SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

NAGI

Department of Geography, University of Burdwan, Barddhaman (W.B.) is organizing 33rd Indian Geography Congress on November 11-13, 2011. Convener Dr. N.C.Jana

E-mail jana.narayan@gmail.com

International Seminar

Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research, Panchkula is organizing a Three -day International Seminar on "**Dynamics of Urban Growth and its Impact on Good Governance: An Evaluation**" from November 18-20, 2011. Members of APG are requested to participate in the seminar. For details visit http://www.isperonline.com/show_events.php?id=21

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES/DEPARTMENTS

Department of Geography RKMV Shimla

A national seminar on "Applications of geospatial technology for teaching and research" was organized by the Department of Geography RKMV Shimla on February 27-28, 2011. It was sponsored by ICSSR, North western Regional centre, Chandigarh. Ms. Sadhna Jain, Senior Scientist, IIRS, Dehradun delivered the key note address.

The seminar was attended by sixty teachers from various colleges and schools of Himachal Pradesh and the students of the department of Geography, RKMV, HPU and research scholars from K.U. Kurukshetra in addition to participation by WWF, Shimla, ESRI, Dehradun to mention a few. Prof. Madan Mankotia, Head Department of Geography coordinated the seminar.

PG Department of Geography, Tikka Ram Girls College, Sonapat, Haryana

A 3-day inter-disciplinary National Workshop on "Social Sciences" sponsored by H.E.C, Haryana was organized on February 12-14, 2011. About 190 delegates and 15 eminent and highly renowned persons actively participated in this workshop. The major themes discussed in the workshop were population growth and environmental degradation, natural disaster management, impact of globalization on economy, impact of global warming on earth system, social sciences in India revisited, RTI and good governance and economics and family values etc. Dr. Anita Singh, Head Department of Geography, coordinated the workshop.

Addition of P.G. Classes in Geography

Baba Farid College, a constituent college of the Baba Farid Group of Institutions has started M.Sc. in Geography from the current academic session. APG welcomes this move and thanks S. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal MD of the Institute for the promotion of this basic science in this era of professionalism.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

Association of Punjab Geographers deeply mourns the sad demise of Dr. A.B. Mukerji formerly Professor, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh who left for his heavenly abode on 31 January, 2011. By his departure the Association of Punjab Geographers has lost a dedicated teacher and scholar of geography. APG prays for the peace of the departed soul

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

Association of Punjab Geographers deeply mourns the sad demise of Dr. M.S. Kataria, formerly Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra who left for his heavenly abode on March 8, 2011. By his departure the Association of Punjab Geographers has lost a dedicated teacher and scholar of geography. The APG prays for the peace of the departed Soul.

NEWS ABOUT THE MEMBERS

Dr. D.D. Sharma, Head, Department of Geography, H.P. University has joined as Professor in the Department since January, 2011.

Dr. B. R. Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla has been awarded a major research project of Rs. 6,82,625/- on "Regional Imbalances in Level of Infrastructural Development in Non-tribal Areas of Himachal Pradesh Problems and Prospects" funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.

Dr. B. R. Thakur and Prof. D. D. Sharma, Department of Geography Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla also got another major research project jointly of Rs. 7,69,800/- on "Characterization and Prioritization of Giri River Watershed: An Integrated Approach" from University Grants Commission, New Delhi

Jaspal Singh, Associate Professor Department of Geography, Government College, Ropar has been awarded Ph. D. Degree in Geography, by Punjabi University, Patiala. The title of his research was "State of Urbanisation in Punjab: A Geographical Analysis". APG congratulates Dr. Jaspal Singh and sends good wishes for further contribution to the discipline.

JOINT MEETING OF APG AND ISPER

To explore the possibilities of further strengthening the co-operation and co-ordination between APG and ISPER, a joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the APG and Executive Council (EC) of the ISPER was held under the Chairmanship of Sh. R.C. Aggarwal, President ISPER on 23.4. 2011 at ISPER Head Quarters, Panchkula. K. Surjit Singh, Secretary General ISPER, while appreciating the academic potentials of the APG informed the EC the objective of holding a joint meeting. The intended objectives are further strengthening co-operation in research activities of the Institute. In view of this, it was resolved to build Geographers Bhawan jointly at Patiala which will function as subcentre of ISPER apart from head quarters of APG. To work out modalities in this regard a sub-committee of four members, two each from APG and ISPER was constituted.

At this occasion Dr. Jaspal Singh presented a copy of his Ph.D. dissertation to President ISPER. The President appreciated the work and suggested that ISPER should also take up such studies for the states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to begin with and later on it may be extended to other states of the country.

YOUNG GEOGRAPHER AWARD (NAGI)

Miss Saleha Jamal, research scholar Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University presented a paper "Household Energy Used: Indoor Air Pollution and Respiratory Health in Aligarh City" on the 32nd Indian Geography Congress" held from 19-21 November, 2010 in Department of Geography, Punjab University Chandigarh. Her paper was selected as best paper presentation and she was awarded "Prof. N.P. Aiyar Young Geographer Award" for the same. APG congratulates the young researcher.

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS

Eco-Disaster: Nearly a million hectares of forests have been cleared for the 11282 projects over the last 30 years in India. Industry and infrastructural projects repeatedly flout India's forest environment and tribal right laws.

Census 2011:

- Provisional population totals of Census 2011 reveal that India is now 1.21 billion.
- In just 10 years India added 181 million equal to the population of Brazil.
- India's population at present is almost equal to the combined population of USA, Indonesia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Japan.
- India is the home of 17.5 per cent of world's population as compared to 19.4 per cent living in China.
- For the first time since 1921 India's growth rate has slowed down to 17.64 per cent as compared to 21.12 per cent in previous decade (1991-2001).
- India recorded an improvement in sex ratio from 933 in 2001 to 940 in 2011.
- Literacy rate also improved from 64.83 per cent in 2001 to 74.04 per cent in 2011.
- With 11279 persons/sq. km, Delhi recorded highest density of population followed by Chandigarh with 9252 persons/sq. km.
- Punjab has 550 persons/sq. km as compared to national average of 352 persons/sq. km.
- Punjab also recorded improvement in sex ratio from 876 in 2001 to 893 in 2011.

(The Tribune)

OSLO: Quickening climate change in the Arctic including a thaw of Greenland's ice, could raise sea level by 1.6 meter by 2100 an international report showed. Such a rise would add to threats from Bangladesh to Florida, low lying Pacific islands and cities from London to Shanghai.

Global Warming to hit Rice and Wheat Production

Wheat yield in 2050 will be reduced by 30 per cent and irrigated rice yields by 15 per cent. More people will have to sleep empty stomach.

Poverty and Hunger- A Double blow for India:

- Nearly 600 million people in the country are poor.
- Over 20 million more people joined the ranks of hungry in the past decade.
- Half of the nation's children are under weight.

Magnetic North Pole is Moving

Scientists believe that magnetic north pole is currently relocating towards Siberia (Russia) at the rate of 37 miles a year. In about 1904 the movement was barely 9 miles a year. The speed of movement has increased from 1989. This movement of magnetic north is causing problems for aviation, navigation and wild life.

(Guy Adams- The Tribune)

No one can predict the impact of 'Polar Reversal' during which the magnetic north and south reverse as it has not happened for 78,000 years. Reversal takes about 10,000 years to happen. These processes are slow and therefore we don't have any thing to worry about.

(Love-The Tribune)

Nuclear Accidents

Fukushima (Japan) experienced third and largest nuclear accident in the world on March 11, 2011 after Three Mile Island (USA) and Chernobyl (Russia).

In the aftermath of atomic disaster in Japan in the wake of earthquake on March 11, 2011, Germany plans to abandon all nuclear power plants and become nuclear free by 2022.



A view of the National Workshop on Social Sciences held at Tikka Ram Girls College, Sonapat (Haryana), Feb. 12-14, 2011.

**Printed Matter
Book - Post**

To,

Prof. I.N. Chawla
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Stamp