



# GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

## Association of Punjab Geographers

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Editor: Prof. I.N. Chawla

Co-Editor : Dr. Jaspal Singh

### 13TH APG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

UGC sponsored 13th Conference of Association of Punjab Geographers was organised by the Department of Geography, Pt. Chiranjilal Sharma Government P.G. College, Karnal, Haryana on 6th - 7th October, 2012. The focal theme of conference "Challenges and Concerns of Geography," was well deliberated by 150 delegates and guests from across the country. Sh. J.S. Kalia, President APG and Principal of the college Dr. R.S. Sharma welcomed delegates and guests. As guest of honour Dr. B.K. Joshi, Director, National Bureau of Animal Genetics and Research, Karnal insisted upon concern for Bio-diversity and sustainable development to be taken in studies. Chief-Guest Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Director cum Vice-Chancellor, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal in his presidential remarks called upon the Geographers to take up the new concerns of the humanity like nutritional deficiency and presence of toxins in our food resources and cures thereof by interaction with scientists.

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Delivering his keynote address, Dr. Gopal Krishan, Professor Emeritus in Geography, P.U. Chandigarh called upon the Geographers to meet the new challenges by embracing the new technologies and improve the quality of research in Geography. He

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OUR EARTH GREEN AND CLEAN

**2013**

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY AND  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

pointed out emerging issues like role of senior geographers for establishing the credibility of geography among social sciences, encroachment by the other social sciences over geographical themes and methodologies, day by day weakening of hold on physical geography, passive interaction of geographers with administrators, politicians and media and need to explore new regional variations based upon advanced technology.

### INVITED PAPERS

Two distinguished invitees Dr. Madhurama Sethi, Principal Scientist (P1), CSSRI, Karnal with her presentation entitled "GIS and Remote Sensing Application in Identifying Soil Salinity Areas" and Dr. S.K. Aggarwal, former professor in geography, Delhi University and presently professor emeritus, KUK while presenting on the theme of "Urban Sprawl and its Impact." contributed a lot to the inaugural session.

### TECHNICAL SESSIONS

A total of 150 delegates across the country presented their research papers in five technical sessions held in two days. All the sessions were chaired by well known personalities like K. Surjit Singh, General Secretary ISPER, Dr. B.S. Marh, Professor in Geography, HP University, Shimla. , Dr. Ashok Diwaker, Principal, GCW, Gurgaon and Dr. M.I. Hassan, Chairman, Deptt. of Geography, MDU, Rohtak. Sh. R.S. Sanga, Jt. Director, Higher Education, Dr. Dharam Singh, HOD Geography, SCD College, Ludhiana, Dr. S.P. Kaushik, Chairman Dept. of Geography, KU, Kurukshetra, Dr. M.S. Jaglan, Department of Geography, Kurukshetra and

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**Inaugural Session in Progress**

Dr. Gurinder Kaur, Department of Geography, Patiala accompanied as Co-Chairpersons in the technical sessions. As rapporteurs, Dr. Rampal Singh, Dr. I.J. Ghanghas, Dr. Daljit Kaur Sandhu, Dr. B.R. Thakur, Dr. P.K. Bhardwaj and Dr. Omvir Singh recorded the technicalities of the sessions very well.

#### **VALEDICTORY SESSION**

Presiding over the valedictory session, Dr. I.P. Abrol, Director, Centre for Advancement of Sustainable Agriculture, New Delhi congratulated and opined that such good interactions amongst various scientists and geographers will lead to quality research which is need of time. Dr. H.S. Mangat, Chief- Patron of APG briefed up the working and valuable achievements of APG. He also announced that 14th APG will be organised by Department of Geography, K.U. Kurukshetra which will be an International Conference.

#### **INSTALLATION OF NEW PRESIDENT**

Sh. K. Surjit Singh was installed as New President of the APG for the years 2013 and 2014. A bouquet was presented to Sh.K. Surjit Singh by the outgoing President Principal, J.S. Kaliana.

#### **THANKS BY OUT-GOING PRESIDENT**

Principal J.S. Kaliana, the out-going President conveyed his heartiest thanks to all the members of APG and his team of office bearers for their co-operation and hard work during his tenure of office for carrying forward and achieving the aims and objectives of the APG. He further assured his help and cooperation to the new President and members and promised to continue working for the growth and development of Association.

#### **GENERAL BODY MEETING**

The general body meeting of the APG was held just after the valedictory session of 13th APG Conference. Dr. I.P. Abrol, Chairman of the valedictory session was requested to chair the general body meeting. Dr. Dharm Singh General Secretary, APG welcomed the members and apprised the house about the achievements of APG during last two years.

Under the Patronship of Dr. H.S. Mangat, the

following honorable members of the APG have been unanimously nominated to run the affairs of the APG for the years 2013 and 14.

- President:** Sh. K. Surjit Singh  
(ISPER, Panchkula)
- President Elect:** Dr. D.D. Sharma (Shimla)
- Outgoing President:** Principal, J.S. Kaliana (Karnal)
- Vice Presidents:** Dr. Karanjot Kaur Brar  
(Chandigarh)  
Dr. S.P. Kaushik (Kurukshetra)  
Dr. I.J. Nagpal (Karnal)
- General Secretary:** Dr. Lakhvir Singh Gill (Patiala)
- Joint Secretary:** Dr. Shaik Iftikhar Ahmed  
(Chandigarh)
- Outgoing General Secretary:**  
Dr. Dharm Singh (Ludhiana)
- Press Secretary:** Prof. Veerdev Singh (Patiala)
- Finance Secretary:** Nirmal Preet Singh (Patiala)
- Members:** Dr. Inderjeet (Rohtak)  
Dr. Sarina Kalia (Jaipur)  
Dr. Inder Singh (Kalanaur)  
Dr. Manoj Kumar Jangra (Hisar)  
Dr. Ajai Kumar (Gonda-U.P.)  
Prof. Harbans Singh (Ludhiana)  
Dr. Anuradha Sharma (Jammu)  
Sh. Abdur Rashid Handa (Ropar)  
Sh. Tejpal Singh, Kurukshetra  
(Student Member)

#### **Ex. Officio Members:**

##### **Editor, Punjab Geographer**

Dr. H.S. Mangat

##### **Managing Editor, Punjab Geographer**

Sh. K. Surjit Singh

##### **Editor Geographers' News Letter**

Prof. I.N. Chawla

##### **Coordinator Young Geographer Award**

Dr. B.R. Thakur

#### **VOTE OF THANKS**

A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. D. D. Sharma, Vice-president APG for the host college to make 13th conference a grand success. A vote of thanks was also moved for the outgoing office bearers of the APG which was passed by the delegates with cheer up vote.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

All the guests and delegates benefited from an exhibition of maps and topographical sheets organized by Bharat Educational Stores, New Delhi. Similarly, a sale counter of valuable geographical literature for delegates arranged by R.K. Publishers New Delhi attracted a lot.

## YOUNG GEOGRAPHER AWARD -2012

Miss Mahima Chatranta presently working as Scientific Professional at Aryabhata Geo-informatics Space Application Centre (AGiSAC) Shimla, Himachal



**Miss Mahima receiving the Young Geographer Award**

Pradesh, was awarded 'Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award -2012' for her presentation "Temperature and Precipitation Trends in Gangotri Glacier" in a special session meant for Young Geographer Award during the 13th APG National Conference at Karnal.

## Prestigious Dr. Bourlaug Award for A Geographer

Dr. Aditya Mukherjee, a human geographer working as scientist in IARI, New Delhi has won Dr. Borlaug Award for her contribution in the field of Research and Applications. She was awarded for her work in transforming access to water for thousands of farmers in West Bengal.

## Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award - 2013

Young geographers who have not attained the age of 33 years are invited for Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award -2013. For details contact Dr. B.R. Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla, E-Mail- brthakur53@gmail.com Ph.- 09418065518.

## 1st APG International Conference & 14th Annual Meet

The Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra is hosting 1st APG International Conference and 14th Annual Meet of the Association of Punjab Geographers on 4-5 October, 2013. The themes of the conference are:

**Focal Theme:** "Disasters, Natural Resource Management and Socio-Economic Development"

### Sub-Themes:

1. Natural and Human Induced Disasters.
2. Disaster Management and Planning.
3. Ecological Impacts of Disasters, Climate Change and Adaptation.

4. Social Vulnerability to Disasters, Human Health and Livelihood.
5. Disasters, Gender and Poverty.
6. Geography and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.
7. Natural Resources : Planning and Policies.
8. Urban, Regional and Environment Planning.
9. Geo-spatial Technology in Disasters and Natural Resource Management.
10. Socio-economic Development and its Spatial Dimensions.

## About Kurukshetra City

The holy city, Kurukshetra where the epic war of Mahabharata was fought, has borne the imprints of Lord Krishna's lotus feet. The message of Gita was delivered to the world from this sacred place. It is because of the association of this place with the triumph of good over evil, the city is described as a Dharmakshetra in the very first verse of Bhagwad Gita. Since time immemorial, Kurukshetra has also been the venue of great purification ceremonies for Moksha for pilgrims from all corners of the country. The dip in the Sarovars of Kurukshetra on the occasion of solar eclipse brings in the merits of thousand of Ashwamedha Yagnas. Kurukshetra has several temples, museums and archeological sites that demonstrate the varied heritage of the city. Not to be missed are the artistically designed science centre, planetarium and light and sound show. Kurukshetra has also Islamic sites dating from the mediaeval period, the most prominent one being the Tomb of Sufi Saint Sheikh Chaheli. Besides, it is well known for Gurdwara Sidhbati, Gurdwara Chatti Patshahi and Gurdwara Rajghat which were built in the memory of the visit of Guru Nanak Dev, Guru Hargobind and Guru Gobind Singh. The visit to Kurukshetra makes everyone feel physically refreshed, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually and religiously elevated. The lingering memories impel one to come to Kurukshetra again and again.

## CLIMATE

The weather at Kurukshetra in the month of October generally remains moderate during the day time (20-25°C), while nights are pleasant (10-15°C).

For details, please contact Dr. S.P. Kaushik, Professor and Chairman, Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra-136119 HARYANA – INDIA Phone (Res. 01744-232544 Mob. 09416482076)

## State Level Geographical Quiz 2013

The Department of Geography, SCD. Govt. College, Ludhiana is organizing a State Level Inter-College Geographical Quiz in the Second Week of February, 2013. For details, please contact Dr. Dharam Singh, Phone Number 9815963379, 9653946258.

## NEWS FROM COLLEGES

### National Workshop

Govt. (State) College of Education, Patiala held a two day National Workshop on “Learning Photography to Develop a Skill of Teaching of Geography and Fine Arts” in collaboration with Association of Punjab Geographers on 19- 20 September, 2012.

**Ms. Sarah Sandring**, Editor and Still Photographer from Berlin, Germany, **Mr. Indermeet Singh**, **Mr. Gurinder Singh**, **Mr. Yadwinder Singh** and **Mr. Nishant Vaidya** were the distinguished speakers who deliberated on various issues of photography and its applicability, particularly in teaching and learning of Geography and Fine Arts in 5 technical sessions. There were 70 participants in the workshop. Remarkable encouragement and enthusiasm of the Principal **Dr. Neelamjit Kaur**, Chief Patron (APG) **Dr. H.S. Mangat** and Organising Secretary **Prof. Veerdev Singh** made this workshop a success story of learning.

**Prof. Shubprem Singh Brar** of Govt. Rajindera College, Bathinda has been promoted as Principal and posted at **Baba Shri Chand Govt. College, Sardargarh (Bathinda)**.

**Mrs. Jasnit Kaur**, Associate Professor in Geography, Govt. College Mohali, got her Doctorate degree on topic “Patterns and Dynamics of Agricultural Land Use in Shahjahanpur District” from **M.J.P. Rohilkhand University Bareilly (U.P.)**

## NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

**Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra**

**Dr. M.S. Jaglan and Dr. S.P. Kaushik**, have been promoted as Professors in Geography.

**Department of Geography, M D University, Rohtak**  
**Dr. S.K. Bansal, Dr. R.S. Sangwan, Dr. Inder Jeet and Dr. P.K. Bhardwaj** have been promoted as Professors in Geography

### Seminar/ Conferences

1. **Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research, Panchkula** is organizing 7th Two-day National Seminar on

“Emerging Frontiers for Spatial Planning: Development of Human Resource for Promoting Real Estate and Property Management” to be held on April 5-6, 2013. For details visit [www.isperonline.com](http://www.isperonline.com)

2. **Department of Geography Punjab University, Chandigarh** is organizing a National Seminar on February 7-8, 2013. The Main Theme of the Seminar is “Demographic Dynamism in India with Special Focus on North-Western India”. For details contact **Dr. Gaurav Kalotra** Convener of the seminar, E-Mail: [geogchd2013seminar@gmail.com](mailto:geogchd2013seminar@gmail.com)
3. **Department of Geography, MDU, Rohtak**, is organizing International Geographical Union (IGU) Conference on March 14-16, 2013. The Main Theme is “Geoinformatics for Biodiversity and Climate Change”. For details visit [www.mdurohtak.ac.in](http://www.mdurohtak.ac.in).

## GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS

### World Disaster Report 2011

- Every year around 13 million babies are born with low birth weight – defined by WHO as below 2,500 grams – and are at increased risk of dying at or soon after birth. About half of these babies are born in south-central Asia (UNSCN, 2010).
- Every year some 9 million children across the world die before they reach their fifth birthday, and about one-third of these untimely deaths are attributed to under nutrition.
- By 2020 diet-related chronic diseases are projected to account for almost three-quarters of all deaths worldwide, and 60 per cent of these will be in low- and middle-income countries (WHO).
- Eight states – Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal – have more desperately poor people than the 26 poorest African nations.

## Printed Matter Book - Post

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

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