



GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

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*New is the year, new are the hopes and the aspirations,
New is the resolution, new are the spirits and..
Forever our warm wishes are for APG Family
Have a promising and fulfilling New Year 2016.*

— Editors



Bhoogol Ratan Award

Dr. G. S. Gosal, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh, has been conferred Bhoogol Ratna Award posthumously by NAGI in recognition of his distinguished contribution in teaching and research in geography. Trained by Professor G.T. Trewartha, he was founder in developing the field of research in Population Geography in India.

16th PUNJAB GEOGRAPHERS CONFERENCE

The 16th APG Meet and National Conference on 'Changing Mountain Environment, Resource Utilization and Sustainable Livelihood', was organised by the Department of Geography, University of Jammu on September 28-29, 2015. About 100 delegates from different parts of the country such as Aligarh, Mumbai, Rohtak, Shimla, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Patiala, Hisar, Kurushetra, Delhi, Jodhpur, Gonda, Faizabad, Jammu and state of Kerala participated in the conference.

The inaugural session of the conference started with lighting of Gyan Jyoti at 11 am at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the university. Prof. S.K. Jain, Honourable Vice Chancellor from Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra was the Chief Guest while, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. R. D. Sharma, University of Jammu presided over the function. Dr. Anuradha Sharma, Convener of the Conference, welcomed the guests and the delegates of the conference. Prof. H. S. Mangat, Patron APG, briefed about the activities of the organization and thanked the University, particularly the Department of Geography for providing an opportunity to the APG for interaction with the scholars of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. D.D. Sharma, President

APG, delivered the presidential address. Dr. Amitabh Kundu, formerly Professor, CSRD, JNU; currently the Chairperson of the Technical Advisory Committee on Housing Startup Index at RBI and Committee to estimate shortage of Affordable Housing with government of India, delivered the Key Note address focusing on the Main Theme of the conference. Prof. S.K. Jain, highlighted the importance of Geography as a subject of teaching and announced to introduce teaching of Geography in his university while delivering his remarks as the Chief Guest. During his presidential remarks, Prof. R. D. Sharma, appreciated the Main Theme of the conference chosen by the department and suggested deep deliberations on the issue. Four meritorious students of the department were also honoured by the APG during the inaugural session.

Inaugural session was followed by a plenary session started just after the lunch. This session was presided over by Prof. Dhian Kaur, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Three panelists, Prof. B.S. Marh, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla, Prof. Monowar Alam Khalid, an expert of Ecology and Climate Variability at Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi and Prof. Masood Ahsan Siddiqui, Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, presented their ideas on "Changing Mountain Environment, Resource Utilization and Sustainable Livelihood", the main theme of the conference. The session was followed by healthy

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discussion. Three Young researchers presented their papers in a special session devoted to Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award competition.

A total of ten parallel sessions were conducted on various sub-themes, such as Agriculture and Rural Development; Population and Urbanization; Climate Change and Environment; Natural Hazards and Disasters; Geo-spatial Technology in Resource Management and Planning; Tourism and Sustainability; Biodiversity: Issues and Challenges. In all the sessions, 54 research papers were presented. All the presentations were followed by productive discussions. The valedictory session of the conference, held in the afternoon on 29th September, 2015, was presided over by Professor B.C. Sharma, Dean Placement and Director, Business School, University of Jammu. Dr. Anuradha Sharma, Head, Department of Geography, introduced the Chief Guest during her welcome address. Dr. Mohd Sarfaraz Ashgar, Organizing Secretary of the conference presented the proceedings of the conference. Professor M.S. Jaglan, President Elect APG presented vote of thanks while a few participations also shared their views during the session.



Prof. M.S. Jaglan, President Elect presenting vote of thanks during the Valedictory Session of the APG Meet at Jammu

Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor M. N. Kaul and Professor G. B. Singh, Department of Geography University of Jammu have been conferred **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Department for their distinguished contribution in the field of teaching and research, during the inaugural session of the 16th APG Meet and National Conference. Prof. M.N. Kaul worked in the field of 'Glaciology' while Prof. G.B. Singh's area of research remained 'Forest Ecology'. The research of both the scholars towards 'Sustainability of Mountain Environment' has been well recognized in the academic as well as professional world.

17th APG Meet and National Conference

17th APG Meet and National Conference is being organized by the Post Graduate Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana on November 4-5, 2016. The thrust area of the conference will be:

Dynamics of Population, Environment and Regional Development: Issues and Challenges

Sub-themes

- Agricultural development and Indian food policy
- Energy, water and agrarian crisis

- Industrialization: A driver of development
- Urban growth challenges: water, waste, pollution, mobility
- Indian urban policies and smart cities
- Demography, health and education
- Depleting resources and sustainable development
- Geo-informatics and its role in developmental planning

For further details, please contact with Prof. Harbans Singh Head, Deptt. of Geography, Ph. 9417789090; E-Mail: 17apgludhiana@gmail.com

New Arrival

Geography Development Public Policy,
(Select Essays of Gopal Krishan)

Editors: Surya Kant and Nina Singh

Year of Publication 2015, Price: Rs. 3000/-

Publisher: R. K. Books New Delhi.

State Level Geographical Quiz Contest

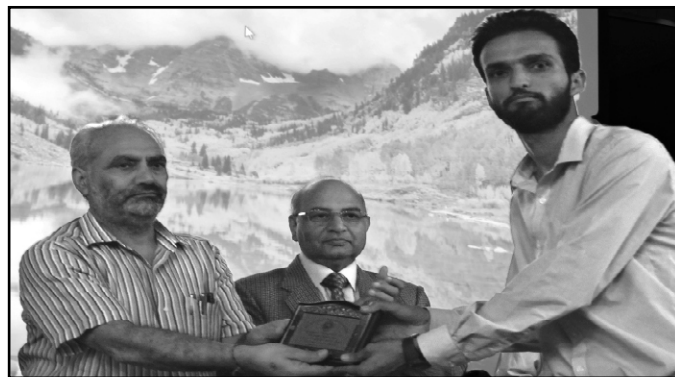
P. G. Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana is going to conduct 9th State Level Geographical Quiz Contest in association with APG, on January 15, 2016 in the department. Interested departments of geography from various colleges are requested to participate. For details contact: Prof. Harbans Singh Head, Deptt. of Geography, Ph. 9417789090

Opening of new Department of Geography at Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra (J&K)

Professor Sudhir K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra made an announcement about starting Post Graduate Course in Geography in the University at Katra during his address in the inaugural session of the 16th APG Meet at Jammu. Association of Punjab Geographers is thankful to him for recognizing the need and importance of Geography as a subject for teaching at PG level.

Meritorious Students Honoured

APG honoured the meritorious students namely Suman Kushawaha, Tsering Dorjay, Rohit Sharma and Rajnish Pangotra of the Department of Geography, University of Jammu who cleared UGC, JRF Examination even before clearing their M.A/M.Sc. examination in Geography on 16th APG Meet at Jammu.



Prof. R.D. Sharma, V. C. Jammu University (Left) and Prof. S.K. Jain, V. C. Katra University (Center) delivering Meritorious Student Award to Rajnish Pangotra

Important Decisions of the Executive Committee Meritorious Students Award

It has been decided that APG should start honouring the meritorious students who clear UGC-NET-JRF examination before passing their PG Exam of the department/college hosting APG Meet as it has been done in case of Jammu University. If such student/s is/are not there, the topper student of the University at PG Level of the Department/ College which is holding annual meet of APG should be honoured. If no student comes in both the categories award shall not be given.

Token of Gratitude

It has also been decided that a 'Token of Gratitude' be presented to the Department/College, hosting APG Meet.

Sending reprints of paper published in 'Punjab Geographer' to the concerned departments of the Government

To encourage the applied research in geography and to let the people know about the potentialities of the subject, it has been decided that the reprints of papers published in 'Punjab Geographer' which has some applied value should be sent to the concerned department of the government by the APG on the address provided by the author/s.

'Punjab Geographer' a Joint Publication

To widen the scope of "Punjab Geographer," to make it academically more sound and for its longevity, the Association of Punjab Geographers (APG) and Institution of Spatial Planning and Environment Research, Panchkula have joined hands to make it a joint publication. Therefore, hence, onwards it will be a joint publication of both the organizations.

Condolence Resolution

It has been very painful to know the sudden and untimely demise of Miss Mahima Chatranta, research scholar, Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, who left us for her heavenly abode on October 23, 2015 just about a week before her 29th birthday. The Association of Punjab Geographers deeply mourns the untimely demise of a young student of geography. This is an irreparable loss to the family as well as geographers. With her untimely departure, we have lost an outstanding student and a promising young researcher. We pray to the almighty God to provide peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

President

News from the Departments/Colleges

Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra is organizing 37th IIG Meet and International Conference on "Land Resource Policies, Agriculture and Expanding Urban-Industrial Spaces," on February 11-13, 2016. The authors can contact Prof. S.P. Kaushik, Organizing Secretary on iig37kuk@gmail.com for any enquiry or about submission of the abstract of the paper.

Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh, is organizing National Seminar on "Agriculture and Food security in India: Challenges and Opportunities", on March 10-11, 2016. For details Contact:nationalseminar2016@gmail.com

Department of Geography, University of Jammu organized **16th APG Meet and National Conference** on September 28-29, 2015. The department also organized **37th Indian Geography Congress 2015** on December 2-4, 2015.

The credit goes to the department for organizing two national conferences in a single academic year. It shows the patronage the department is receiving from the university and the will and capacity of the department to bear the burden. The cooperation and coordination of the young faculty of the department deserve special mention in this regard. The department has proved the saying, 'where there is will, there is a way.'

Professor D. D. Sharma, Chairman, Department of Geography, HPU Shimla and President APG visited UK under **Global Scholar Scheme of BSU (UK)** during Oct 2015 and attended the International Conference on 'Mountains of our Future Earth' during 4-8 Oct 2015 at University of Highlands and Islands Perth, Scotland and subsequently worked as a visiting scholar at Bath Spa University, England.

Six students from the department qualified UGCJRF held in June 2015 and 5 more qualified NET for lecturership.

Condolence Resolution

The Association of Punjab Geographers deeply mourns the untimely demise of Ms Pushpinder Kaur, Principal, Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Karnal. This is an irreparable loss to the family as well as geographers. With her departure, the discipline of Geography has lost a dedicated teacher in the subject of geography and the college a good administrator. We pray to the almighty God to provide peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

President

Conferences/Seminars

Department of Geography, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan is organizing an International Conference on "Geography and Sustainable Development", on 8-10 March, 2016. For details contact Prof. Abdul Ghaffar, E-Mail: geogconf2016@pu.edu.pk

Department of Geography, School of Geo-sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, is organizing 5th International Conference of NAGI. For details visit: <http://www.bdu.ac.in/events/fepsa>

Department of Geography and Research Centre, Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science, Margao-Goa is organizing an Interdisciplinary International Conference on 'Regional Co-operation, Conflicts and Constructiveness in South Asia: Strengthening SAARC on January 21-23, 2016. For details visit: www.chowgules.ac.in

News about the Members

- Prof. Jasbir Singh Boparai, Department of Geography, Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala has been promoted as Principal and posted at Govt. Brijindra College, Faridkot.
- Prof. Harminder Kaur Boparai, Department of Geography, Govt. College for Women, Patiala, has also been promoted as Principal and posted at Govt. College of Education Faridkot.
- Prof. Savita Sharma, Department of Geography, Govt. College, Ropar, has joined Govt. College, Naya Nangal after getting promotion as Principal.
- Dr. Lakhvir Singh Gill, Department of Geography, Khalsa College for Women, Sidhwan Khurd, Ludhiana has joined as Principal at SBSBM University College, Sardulgarh, Mansa.
- Dr. Jaspal Singh, Department of Geography, Govt. College S.A.S Nagar (Mohali) has been promoted as Professor in Geography.
- Dr. Dharam Singh, Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana is already functioning as Principal of the College.

Association of Punjab Geographers is proud of these members, congratulates them and extends its best wishes to all of them. This is the first time that such a number of geographers have been promoted and posted as Principal/Professor in various colleges of Punjab. With their joining, the subject of geography will certainly scale new heights.

Geographical News

Theme of the World Environment Day, 2015: Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.

World Environment Day is the opportunity for everyone to realize the responsibility to care for the Earth and to become agents of change. The WED theme this year 2015 is therefore "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care." Living within planetary boundaries is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future. Human prosperity need not cost the earth. Living sustainably is about doing more and better with less. It is about knowing that rising rates of natural resource use and the environmental impacts that occur are not a necessary by-product of economic growth.

The well-being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy, ultimately depend upon the responsible management of the planet's natural resources. Evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide.

Many of the Earth's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change, pushed by high population growth and economic development. By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our ways of living and consumption.

"Although individual decisions may seem small in the face of global threats and trends, when billions of people join forces in common purpose, we can make a tremendous difference." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon – For more visit: <http://www.unep.org/wed/about>.

Appeal

Members are requested to send information personal and departmental for publication in the Newsletter to Dr. Jaspal Singh, E-Mail: geogjaspal@gmail.com

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To,

Stamp

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