



# **GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER**

## **Association of Punjab Geographers**

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

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Editor : Dr. Seet Singh

Co-Editor : Dr. Jaspal Singh

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### **The Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016 (Available on the internet)**

A Bill to regulate the acquisition, dissemination, publication and distribution of Geo-spatial information of India which is likely to affect the security, sovereignty and integrity of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental is to be enacted by the Parliament in the Sixty-Seventh Year of the Republic of India. It prohibits the acquisition, publication and use of geospatial information including maps without obtaining licence from authorities concerned.

#### **Penalty for illegal acquisition of geospatial information of India:**

Whoever acquires any geospatial information of India in contravention of section 3, shall be punished with a fine ranging from Rupees one Crore to Rupees one hundred Crore and/or imprisonment for a period up to seven years.

#### **Representation by APG**

The Executive Committee of the Association of Punjab Geographers has pleaded to the Ministry of Home Affairs that teaching and research departments using geospatial information may be kept out of the ambit of the bill. The copy of representation has also been submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development and UGC for necessary information and appropriate intervention in the larger interest of the geographers' community.

#### **17th APG Meet and National Conference**

Post Graduate Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana is going to organize 17th APG Meet and National Conference 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

#### **Call for Papers**

Papers are invited for presentation during the Conference on each sub-theme. The participants are requested to send the abstract (not more than 300 words) to Mrs. Simerjeet Kaur, Organizing Secretary, 17th APG Meet and National Conference, PG Department of Geography, SCD Government College, Ludhiana. E-mail 17apgludhiana@gmail.com by Oct.

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10, 2016. The participants may submit their abstract on A4 size paper clearly typed in double space using Times New Roman font. A hard and a soft copy of the full papers should reach to the Convener not later than 25th October, 2016.

### **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 making the announcement a reality by opening the P.G. Department of Geography under the faculty of Social Sciences in recognition to the need and importance of Geography as a subject for teaching and research. APG also appreciates the efforts of the Department of Geography, University of Jammu, towards the establishment of this new department.

### **Dr. Saminderjit Singh Young Geographer Award Competition, 2016**

This competition will not take place at the APG Meet at Ludhiana, because, the Executive Committee of APG in its meeting at Ludhiana is going to review it in detail to come up with a strategy to make it more meaningful, broad based and competitor friendly.

### **9th Annual State Level Geography Quiz**

Maintaining its annual feature, having a focus on the purpose to motivate students for geography, Department of Geography S.C.D. Govt. College, Ludhiana organized 9th Annual State Level Geography Quiz on 15.01.2016 in collaboration with Association of Punjab Geographers. Eleven teams from various colleges of Punjab participated in it. A Preliminary test was conducted for short listing the teams. Five teams namely; Govt. Rajindra College, Bathinda, Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala, Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar, Govt. College for Girls, Ludhiana and Baba Farid College, Deon, Bathinda qualified for the final round. Finally, Govt. Rajindra College, Bathinda got First position, Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar got Second position and Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala got the Third position.



Dr. Harbans Singh, Head, P. G. Department of Geography along with faculty members honoring the winner team of Govt. Rajindra College, Bathinda.

### **Punjab Geographer**

Original research papers are invited for publication in the 'Punjab Geographer' Vol.12, 2016. The journal is refereed one. Therefore, the contributors are requested to ask for the guidelines from the Editor at [hsmangat@rackeys.com](mailto:hsmangat@rackeys.com) to prepare the paper as per the set procedure to avoid inconvenience.

### **18th APG Meet**

Department of Geography of any university/college, located in or outside the region, comprising Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and J&K can host 18th APG Meet along with National/International Conference. UGC provides liberal grant for such conferences. Willing department can contact Dr. D.D. Sharma, President APG, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla, HP. E-Mail: [ddsharma100@rediffmail.com](mailto:ddsharma100@rediffmail.com) Mobile : 09418076763.

## **NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS**

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

A remarkable academic and geographically directed mega event like 37th IIG Meet and International Conference on the theme, '**Land Resource Policies, Agriculture and Expanding Urban-industrial Spaces**' was organized by the Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University on February 11-13, 2016. About 350 geographers, earth scientists and social scientists from 20 Universities and 18 States of India and abroad

participated actively in this conference. In his presidential address, Prof. M H Qureshi from JNU pointed out how the land resource policies in India shaped the agricultural patterns and influenced the conditions of farmers. Professor Amitabh Kundu highlighted the dynamics of Indian economy and its relation with land acquisition policies and plethora of urban problems during his Keynote Address.

In three plenary sessions, 7 special lectures by invited resource persons; Prof. Sachidanand Sinha (JNU), Sh. K. Surjit Singh (ISPER, Panchkula), Prof. Ronki Ram (PU, Chandigarh), Prof. R.B. Bhagat (IIPS, Mumbai), Prof. Veena Joshi (Pune University), Prof. R Ramachandriah (CESS, Hyderabad) and Prof. Shrawan Kumar Acharya (JNU) were delivered. Besides this, there was a panel discussion on the theme, 'Regional Development and Disparities in India' where Prof. B.S. Butola (JNU) and Prof. Krishan Mohan (PU, Chandigarh) initiated debate. IIG also introduced Prof. A B Mukerji Memorial Lecture. The first lecture in the memory of his teacher was delivered by Prof. M N Kaul, from University of Jammu.



Prof. M H Qureshi from JNU delivering Presidential Address

Six students participated in Young Geographer Award competition and presented their research work. During the 24 technical sessions, 174 research papers were presented. Professor K.D. Sharma from Panjab University, Chandigarh delivered the Valedictory Address and put in perspective the academic deliberations held during the conference.

## **Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh**

A two day National Seminar on 'Agriculture and Food Security in India: Challenges and Opportunities' was organized by the Department of Geography, Panjab University on March 10-11, 2016. Various national and foreign delegates such as from Punjab Agricultural University; University of the Fraser Valley, Canada; University of Newcastle, U.K.; Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur; JNU, New Delhi; University of Delhi, and many more made their presence. Prof. Dhian Kaur, Department of Geography, PU introduced the theme of the conference. She emphasized that agriculture is a crucial sector, and problems faced are many, like economic viability, environmental sustainability and global competitiveness. Keynote Address was given by Prof. Garry Fehr, who highlighted that Second Green Revolution is not possible with the similar attributes as that of the First one. He talked about various new innovative technologies gaining attention in order to have maximum output from limited resources in environmentally sustainable manner.

Dr. Christopher Gibbins, Consul General, Canadian Consulate at Chandigarh highlighted the common area of research and development between India and Canada in the field of agriculture. Prof. B. S Dhillon, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana in his presidential address highlighted the misconceptions related to productivity in Punjab. He shared the facts on the scenarios of Indian per capita availability of food grains and stressed on the strategies for accelerating growth in agriculture sector, while stating alarming problem of declining water table in Punjab due to rice cultivation and policy issues.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by Prof. G.S. Kalkat, Chairman Punjab State Farmers Commission. Prof. M.H. Qureshi of CSRD, JNU, New Delhi delivered the Valedictory Address. He highlighted the numerous challenges that agriculture sector is facing in India, owing to its vastness and diversity.

## **Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Gogol, Margao, Goa**

The Department of Geography and Research Centre, Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science

(Autonomous), Gogol, Margao, Goa proudly organized ICSSR sponsored Interdisciplinary International Conference on "**Regional Co-operation, Conflicts and Constructiveness in South Asia: Strengthening SAARC**", from 21-23 January 2016. At the Inaugural session, the Principal of the College, Dr. Nandkumar N. Sawant, formally welcomed the delegates and spoke on SAARC aspects. The organizing secretary, Dr. Vinod Bharadwaj, introduced the conference theme.



Formal inauguration of the conference by lighting the traditional lamp

### News about the Members

#### APG Congratulates

1. Dr. Omvir Singh for being promoted as Professor at the Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

2. Dr. Simrat Kahlon, for being promoted as Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh.
3. Dr. Gaurav Kalotra, for being appointed as Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh.
4. Dr. A.K.M. Anwaruzzaman, Assistant Professor in Geography, Malda College, Malda, West Bengal for being appointed as Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Aliah University, Kolkata.
5. Prof. Harbans Singh, Head Department of Geography S.C.D. Govt. College, Ludhiana who has got his doctorate degree on the topic entitled "Territorial Organisation of Administration in Punjab by Public, Private and Non-Government Agencies: A Comparative Analysis" from Panjab University, Chandigarh.

#### Geographical News

**Sinking Cities** : Beijing and 45 other cities in China are sinking. Beijing continues to sink at a rate of 11 Cms./year. The subsidence is caused by rapid construction of massive buildings, roads and other infrastructure projects putting a lot of weight on the ground; excessive pumping of ground water etc. Mexico city is also sinking but at a rate of 28 Cms./year. The Current Science Monitor, June 25, 2016

### Printed Matter Book - Post

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Dr. Lakhvir Singh Gill  
 # 112, Salaria Vihar,  
 Urban Estate Phase-I  
 Patiala-147002 (Punjab)  
 Email : lakhvirsgill@gmail.com