



# GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

## Association of Punjab Geographers

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**Wishing you a  
Very Happy and Prosperous  
New Year, 2019**

### 19th APG Meet and International Conference, 2018

The 19th APG Meet and International Conference of the Association of Punjab Geographers was jointly organized by P.G. Department of Geography and P.G. Department of Agriculture, GSS DGS Khalsa College, Patiala on 2nd and 3rd November, 2018 on the theme, "Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Environment". S. Surjit Singh Rakhra, former Education Minister, Punjab was the Chief Guest and Padam Shri Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal was the Guest of Honor for the Inaugural Session. Prof. M. S. Bajwa, Former Director Research, PAU, Ludhiana delivered the keynote address. He laid emphasis on the need of using sustainable practices in agriculture to save our environment for future generations. APG President, Prof. M.S. Jaglan, discussed about the conference theme in detail and enlisted the comprehensiveness of the vast sub themes covered in the preview of the main theme. Patron APG, Dr. H. S. Mangat, elaborated the increased horizon of the Association of Punjab Geographers. Details about the origins and working of

Association of Punjab Geographers were given and new geographers were also encouraged to come into the folds of APG.

In all, 180 papers were presented and 227 participants from all parts of India and various other countries including England, Maldives, Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh etc. participated in the conference. Delegates from almost all the universities of north west India participated in the conference which included University of Kashmir, Srinagar; University of Jammu, Jammu; Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla; Panjab University, Chandigarh; Punjabi University, Patiala; Central University of Punjab, Bathinda; Punjab Remote Sensing Centre, Ludhiana; Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra; Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak; Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh; JNU, New Delhi; Delhi University, Delhi; Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi; University of Rajasthan, Jaipur; PDM University, Bahadurgarh (Delhi NCR), Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi; Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal; Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh; and Presidency University, Kolkata.

Presentations for *Dr. Saminderjit Singh 'Young Geographer Award'* were made by four shortlisted participants, where Mr. Pankaj, Research Scholar, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra



*Dignitaries at the Inaugural Session*

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*Mr. Pankaj receiving Young Geographer Award*

was bestowed with the prestigious award. Valedictory session of the conference was chaired by Prof. Sukhpal Singh, IIM Ahmedabad. A special lecture by Prof. Pritam Singh, Senior Economist, Oxford University, England was organized on this occasion. Efforts made by the departments of Geography and Agriculture for this international conference were highly recognized and appreciated by the participants and dignitaries. Dr. Gorakh Singh, Organizing Secretary presented the Conference report and detailed about the two days' events. General Secretary APG, Dr. Lakhvir Singh Gill, proposed the vote of thanks to all the

#### **20th APG Meet and National Conference**

Department of Geography, Govt. College, Hisar, Haryana is hosting 20th APG Meet and National Conference on Oct. 11-12, 2019. The Themes for the deliberations at the conference are:

##### **Main Theme:**

Ecological Sustainability, Regional Development and Geo-Spatial Technology

##### **Sub Themes:**

1. Sustainability of Land, Air and Water Resources
2. Agricultural Development and Ecological Changes
3. Climate Change Impacts on Biosphere and Biodiversity
4. Sustainable Economic Development and Regional Planning
5. Socio-cultural Regionalism and Regional Identity
6. Sustainability and Resilience of Urban and Rural Settlements
7. Human Ecology, Dynamics of Population and Environment
8. Infrastructure and Amenities Development Impacts on Ecology
9. Geospatial Technology in Environmental Modelling
10. Application of Geo-informatics in Resource Management and Planning
11. Policy Oriented Research and Issues in Geography

**Note:** Researchers working in various areas of specializations in geography and allied disciplines are allowed to present their research even if it does not fall within the thrust area of the conference theme.

#### **Dr. SaminderJeet Singh Young Geographer Award 2019**

Original research papers along with bio-data of the authors who are Masters in Geography and have not attained the age of 32 years are invited from all over India and SAARC countries for the Young Geographer Award competition. A soft copy of the paper prepared according to the format of 'Punjab Geographer' 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)**. The participants are requested to visit [www.apgorg.org](http://www.apgorg.org) for details of rules and regulations before submitting their paper to the coordinator.

#### **Prof. B. Hema Malini Promising Geographer Award**

This award has been instituted by Professor Bandaru Hema Mailni, Department of Geography, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam for the promotion of Geography among younger generations. For this award, a competition on Poster Presentation will be conducted every year, at the time of annual conference of APG and will be notified in the brochure of the conference. Young geographers, who have passed MA / M.Sc. in geography and not attained the age of 32 years, are eligible to participate in this award. The aspirants of the award shall submit soft copies of their original posters along with bio-data in English to Coordinator of this award, Dr. Vishwa B. S. Chandel, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh (E-mail: [vishwa.geoinvader@gmail.com](mailto:vishwa.geoinvader@gmail.com); Contact : 09872833637). To maintain secrecy, the participant's name and department should be mentioned in the covering letter and not on the Posters. Aspirants shall display the hard copies of their Posters, on the space provided for it, at the venue of the APG annual Meet. Evaluation will be done by the judges on the spot and the result will be declared in the evening. One among them would finally be selected for Promising Geographer Award carrying a cash award of Rs. 3000/-; while the first runner-up will get Rs. 2000/- and second runner-up will get Rs. 1000/-. All of them will also be presented mementos and certificates of merit on the Valedictory Session of the conference. Detailed rules and regulations about this competition will shortly be available on [www.apgorg.org](http://www.apgorg.org)

#### **Devinder Singh Raina Memorial Meritorious Student Award 2018**

To promote the subject of Geography, the Association of Punjab Geographers has instituted Meritorious Student Award, in the memory of Devinder Singh Raina, Department of Geography, University of Jammu, Jammu.

Meritorious Student Award, 2018 was presented to Ms. Pushpa Devi, Department of Geography, University of Jammu for standing First in MA Geography Examination, 2018 of University of Jammu, Jammu, at 19th APG Meet and International Conference, held at Khalsa College, Patiala on 2-3 November, 2018.



*Ms. Pushpa Devi receiving Meritorious Student Award*

### State Level Geographical Quiz Contest 2019

The State Level Geographical Quiz Contest is now being conducted in two stages. In the first stage, Zonal Level Quiz Contest will be organized by different zones namely;

### News from the Departments

#### Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University

List of the students who have submitted their dissertations for the award of Ph. D. degree along with the names of supervisors and title of research is presented in the following Table:

Thesis Submitted since June 2018		
Name of Student	Thesis	Name of Supervisor
Jagdeep Singh	Causes and Impacts of Spatial Variability in Erosion and Sediment Yield o Sukheti Catchment, Himachal Pradesh	Prof. Omvir Singh
Ravinder	Assessment of Tourism Carrying Capacity in Selected Destinations of Cold desert Area of Kinnaur District, Himachal Pradesh	Prof. S.P. Kaushik
Jitender Kumar	Development and Accessibility of Groundwater Resources in Haryana	Prof. M.S. Jaglan
Ramjuwari	Changing Characteristics of Livesock Economy in Haryana: A Spatio-Temporal Analysis	Prof. M.S. Jaglan
Sanjay Kumar	Cotton Cultivation in Haryana: A Spatio-Temporal Exploration	Prof. M.S. Jaglan
Tejpal	Extraction of Construction Material in Aravalli Region of Haryana and Delhi: Its Spatial Pattern Ecological Hazards and Economic Impact	Prof. M.S. Jaglan Prof. B.S. Chaudhary (Co-Supervisor)
Preeti	Violence Against Women in Public and Private Spaces in Haryana	Prof. Rajeshwari

Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali, Patiala and Bathinda. The colleges with departments of geography in these zones will compete at Zonal Level in the last week of January or first week of February. The winners at zonal level will compete for State Level. The dates for Zonal and Inter-Zonal competitions will be intimated by the host colleges. The zonal quiz is being conducted by DAV College for Women, Amritsar, Doaba College, Jalandhar, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana, Govt. College, Mohali, Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala and Baba Farid College, Deon, Bathinda. The final Quiz Contest will be conducted in the third week of February, 2018 at SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana.

### Punjab Geographer

Original research papers are invited for publication from the members. Members can contact Dr. H. S. Mangat, E-mail : editor@apgorg.org. Please visit website of APG: [www.apgorg.org](http://www.apgorg.org) to see the guidelines for the authors and format of the paper.

### News about the Members

Prof. D.D. Sharma, Dept. of Geography, HP University, Shimla has joined as Director, UGC-HRDC, HP University.

## Socio-economic Field Survey

Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra conducted a socio-economic field survey under the supervision of **Prof. S.P. Kaushik and Mr. Ravinder Kumar** from September 30, 2018 to October 7, 2018 in seven villages of Dharamsala tehsil of District Kangra in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Students of M.Sc. Geography, IIIrd semester participated in this socio-economic survey. There were 47 students including 19 boys and 28 girls. During the survey period, students and staff members stayed at Jadrangal village. The surveyed villages are located along the Dharamsala-Palampur road adjoining the famous Chamunda Devi temple. The students surveyed about 401 households in seven villages namely, Padar, Ghirtholi, Sakoli, Pattola, Balla, Kand and Uttaragan. The preliminary information of the survey reveals a very high social development in these villages. Every village is connected with surfaced roads having primary schools, anganwaris and primary health centers. Apart from this, three villages have veterinary hospitals and two of them have senior secondary schools. Padar has the largest population (1526) followed by Ghirtholi (896). All other villages have population between 200 to 600 persons. Four of the villages have recorded more than 1000 sex ratio while others have more than 900 except Patola (897). All the households have electricity connections and receive 24hour electricity supply. All panchayts of these villages are connected with internet connections. There are *Mahila Mandals* in every village to discuss day to day problems pertaining to village development and women empowerment. Status of females is very high which is reflected in non-existent of crime against girls/women. Living condition of aged persons has been found largely good and well taken care off by their family members. Agriculture farms are very small and average size of land holding being 4 to 8 *kanals*. Only few households

have more than one acre farm land, whereas wheat and paddy are the principal crops grown in the surveyed villages. Irrigation is largely done by indigenous *kuhls*.

## Geographical News

### 1. Sahara swung between lush and desert conditions every 20,000 years, in sync with monsoon activity

The Sahara desert is one of the harshest, most inhospitable places on the planet, covering much of North Africa in some 3.6 million square miles of rock and windswept dunes. But it wasn't always so desolate and parched. Primitive rock paintings and fossils excavated from the region suggest that the Sahara was once a relatively verdant oasis, where human settlements and a diversity of plants and animals thrived. Now researchers at MIT have analyzed dust deposited off the coast of west Africa over the last 240,000 years, and found that the Sahara, and North Africa in general, has swung between wet and dry climates every 20,000 years. They say that this climatic pendulum is mainly driven by changes to the Earth's axis as the planet orbits the sun, which in turn affect the distribution of sunlight between seasons -- every 20,000 years, the Earth swings from more sunlight in summer to less, and back again.

### 2. Krakatau Causes Tsunami

On August 26-28, 1883, Mt. Krakatoa volcano experienced one of the largest volcanic eruptions ever recorded in human history, generating 15-meter tsunami waves. The sound of explosion was heard at a distance of 3000 miles in Australia. It led to over 36000 deaths. The eruption destroyed the cone spread over five kilometres. In 1927, the cone emerged again from sea. It was named Anak Krakatau (Child of Krakatoa). It gained a height of 338 meters till Dec. 22, 2018 when about 64-hectare chunk of the cone slid into the ocean causing huge tsunami in Java and Sumatra.

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