

Report of Activities (2016-17)

The Geography department organised a lecture and interactive session for students and faculty by Dr. D. R. Pattanaik from the Numerical Weather Prediction Division of Indian Meteorological Division, New Delhi. He gave an informative presentation on weather forecasting in Delhi and its impacts. 'Bhuvan', launched in 2009, is a software application developed by NRSC and data provided by ISRO. It allows users to explore a 2D/3D representation of the surface of the Earth, offering the highest resolution to analyse the region. The department also organised a one-day inter-college Workshop on 'Digital Empowerment of Society for Panchayat level Planning and Governance through 'Bhuvan'.' More than 70 students from other colleges of Delhi University participated along with a good strength of faculty members.

In the first session of the day, the scientists from NRSC, ISRO, Hyderabad and Jodhpur discussed Digital Empowerment of Society for Panchayat level Planning and Governance which was followed by hands-on session in the latter half of the day. Eminent speakers like Dr. Rao, Ms. VijayaBhanu, Mr. Gaurav Kumar enlightened the participants about the role of Bhuvanpanchayat in decentralised planning, applications, outreach and E-Governance. In the hands-on session, technicians/officials from NRSC, Hyderabad, Mr. Ashish Jain and Mr. Virat Arora demonstrated how to access the website via registrations, how to involve general public for time effective planning, Geo-Tagging, Automated Report Generation for respective area of interest and much more. In the concluding session, they also discussed the BhuvanPanchayat Mobile App in which users are allowed to automatically grab the location of asset through GPS and capture photographs in-situ. They also highlighted the significance of such web portals to enhance the localised activities like social welfare, Governance, Civic Amenities, Infrastructural development, Land and water development etc. The Workshop was concluded with the distribution of Certificates of Participation.

A Faculty Development Program was organised for demonstration of open source GIS-QGIS on 9th January 2016, followed by another session on 30th January 2016 for the students of the department. Dr. Daljeet Chiller, Associate Professor, Shraddhanand College, DU demonstrated the whole process of Map Generation digitally. He began with how to download the software online and how to generate thematic maps by using QGIS. He demonstrated each and every step starting from importing the raster image/map to the software, registering it, digitising, removal of errors and generating thematic maps by linking the attribute data with spatial data. He also demonstrated the final layout of the map by adding major components of the thematic map like scale, legend, graticules etc. In the concluding session, he interacted with students, solved the queries and also emphasised upon the growing importance of GIS in today's world.

A two-day National Conference on 'ICSSR Research Survey and Explorations in Economic Geography', organised by ICSSR on 22nd and 23rd March, 2016 at Convention Centre, JNU, was attended by seven faculty members and 58 students from the Geography department, KNC. The Geography department of Kamala Nehru College organised a National Conference on 'Himalayan Perspectives- Land, People and Resources' on 12th April 2016. The Conference proposed to raise the issues with Himalayan perspectives on land, people and resources, analyse the implications and suggest the recourses. Such an academic event envisioned to bring together the planners, academicians, scholars and the stakeholders, and carry the concerns forward. The eminent personalities were, Professor K.S. ValdiyaPadmabhusan, former Vice Chancellor Kumaon University as the Guest of

Honour, Professor R.S. Tolia, former Chief Secretary Uttarakhand as the Keynote speaker, Professor Shekhar Pathak, Padma Shri and others. In the two technical sessions fourteen papers were presented by faculty, scholars and professionals, from the different hill states of India.

The Geography department organised a field excursion as was required by the syllabus of Geography Honours Semester V. A group of 39 students visited Jabalpur and surrounding areas in Madhya Pradesh from 17th to 22nd September 2016. The teachers who conducted the field trip and supervised the field research by students, were Dr. Renu Malhotra, Dr. Shadab Khan and Dr. Tara Shanker. The students visited a number of places like MadanMahal Fort, Bargi Dam, Center Point of India, Balancing rocks, Gwarighat, Bedaghat among others. The students learnt and collected data through field observation, questionnaire survey, discussion and interaction. A detailed questionnaire survey of the marble market near Bedaghat was conducted with the aim of studying the type of products sold, sourcing of raw material and marketing of these products. The students also surveyed a tribal village, 'MarhaPartha', aiming to study the socio-economic status of women in tribal areas with special focus on women empowerment. The research carried on in the field, culminated in a report which each student had to write separately for partial fulfilment as a requirement for the evaluation in this course.

The Geography Day

The Department of Geography observed 'Geography Day' on 6th February 2017, an annual event which brings together students of Geography from different colleges. The event began with lecture and presentation by Prof. Mondira Dutta, who specialises in Gender studies and is placed at the Centre for Inner Asian Studies School of International Studies, JNU. She highlighted the problem of Trafficking of Women and Girls in India and emphasised the role of community to prevent and stop this ghastly trade. The lecture was an eyeopener and very well received by students. The second half of the day saw activities like quiz, poster making, and creating useful things from waste. All these activities were organised keeping in mind the essence of the discipline of Geography and attracted enthusiastic participation from students.