

GEOGRAPHICA 2018

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MIRANDA HOUSE







GEOGRAPHICA 2018

LIVES, LIVELIHOOD

AND ENVIRONMENT

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
MIRANDA HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



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Editorial Board

We present to you Geographica'18 with the theme 'Lives, Livelihood and Environment'. This year's issue includes various travel stories, articles on geopolitical issues along with personal experiences and stories. We would like to thank the teachers and the staff for their support and help.

- **Varnika Srivastava, Editor-in-Chief**

इस साल की जियोग्रफिका बदलते समय और बदलाव का वर्णन करती है। यह सफर एक रोमान्चक अनुभव रहा है जिसका पूरा श्रेय विभाग और विभाग के सदस्यों के साथ साथ संपादक मंडल को जाता है।

— स्नेहा कुमारी, मुख्य संपादक

This year's Geographica gives a view to different people's experiences through articles, poems, inspiring stories and travelogues. Geographica'18 is a combined effort of the editorial team, supportive teachers and the contributors. We hope this issue would be an interesting and fascinating read for everyone.

- **Sharmili Dhar, Editor**

जियोग्रफिका 18 नई सोच और जिन्दगी की यात्राओं एवम् अनुभवों का सार है। इस साल की पत्रिका में हमारे जीवन और जीवनयापन के तरीकों को दर्शाया गया है।

- खुशबु, संपादक

Geographica'18 is a collective initiative by the students and the teachers and we sincerely hope you have a good time reading it!

- **Aleena Jacob, Sub-Editor**

जियोग्रफिका '18 भुगोल विभाग में मौजूद सभी विद्यार्थी, अध्यापकों और संपादकों की मेहनत का नतीजा है। इस संकलन द्वारा कई ऐसे लोगो, समुहो और विषयों पर रोषनी डालने की कोशिश की गई है जिनसे हम वाकिफ तो है पर उनके बारे में गंभीर होकर सोचने की जरूरत है।

— कोनिष्का, उप – संपादक

Creative Team:

This edition of Geographica is very informative and fascinating. It has been an enriching experience to be a part of the editorial team.

- **Vinita Jangid**

I feel privileged to be the part of this year's editorial board. Have fun reading!

- **Mansi Khatri**

It has been a great opportunity to work with the editorial team and learn. The theme of this year's issue 'Lives, Livelihood and Environment' is a vast and inclusive theme and we hope you have a good time going through it.

- **Shubhangi Agarwal**

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The fact that we are bound together as a community and are linked together by an invisible force of coherency and our collective view of the future is the very essence of life. The Earth is a sentient being which relentlessly gives and gives, continuously and without bias. Our nature is as damaged as it could ever be with humanity probably reaching its all time low. The irony of this existence is that we are in this together and no matter how much any force tries to break us apart, we stick together, hoping to spread out towards infinity and spread our legacy and etch our footprints into the framework of universe and influence spacetime in such a way that our legacy is resounded for millennia to come. In this daily adventure to achieve more and more, our destinies collide in the form of intersecting paths as our livelihood dictates what we must do. Sustainable Development might look like a seemingly easy task, one that requires no further explanation, but is counterintuitively very difficult. Our lives that we must live, our livelihoods that bind us together and pushes up our boundaries and the environment which is our home and the catalyst to the story is the beauty of our existence, which is brought together in the theme of this year's issue. We hope to incorporate and capture the very beauty of our environment and our lives through many stories, articles, travelogues and poems. As you turn the pages, we hope to take you on a magical journey through the beautiful land of India, from the snow capped valleys of Himanchal Pradesh to the famous backwaters of Kerala as we portray the intertwining threads of our lives through the power of the pen.

-Varnika Srivastava, 3rd Year, B.A (Hons) Geography

HUMAN DIGNITY

by *Aanandita Sikka*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

There have been countless continuous attempts to uphold human dignity, born out of struggles of people demanding a better inclusive society. Labour movements, feminist movement, human rights movements, LGBT rights movements, fundamental rights movements are a few examples. While dignity as a concept can easily be dismissed as purely ethical, it has grave impacts on people and their livelihoods. Dignity is significant because it relates to self-worth, it is associated with people's capacity to grow and attain better things, but most importantly it is essential to human life because dignity cultivates aspirations and aspirations harvest development.

We all celebrate human life; when a new life is born, the community rejoices. The misfortune arises because there is a stark contrast between celebrating human life and celebrating the spirit of humanity and human potential. Every day while going to college, I see an 11-year-old boy cleaning cups at a tea stall, he works from 6 in the morning to 11 at night. He has been to school till class four but dropped out later. People call him by different names, some call him 'Chotu', others 'Bablu' and some simply whistle or snap fingers to call him. The poor kid hasn't even had the privilege to have a name of his own. But what is more appalling is the fact that he hasn't had a fair chance at dignity. Living on the streets, without any roof over his head, growing up without education, without opportunities as any other kid should deserve, without believing in his own self-worth and finally without aspirations of a better tomorrow and that, I feel is absolutely tragic. It makes me wonder if dignity is a privilege reserved for a few selected to manifest in our society rather than a basic aspect of day to day life essential for every individual born. Rhetorically, Indian constitution as well as various international organisations claim dignity to be a necessary and indispensable value to humans but in practicality, the space given to dignity to prevail and flourish is barely in existence.

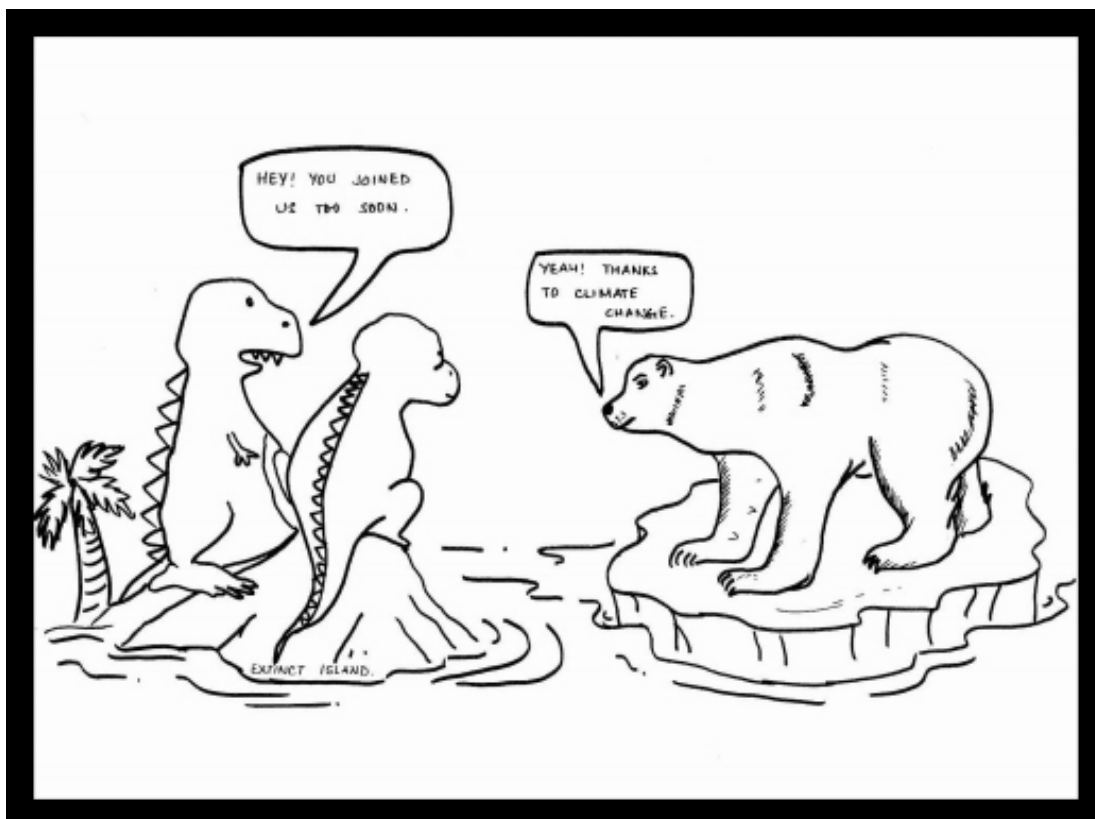


Illustration by: Nikita Singh, B.A(Hons) Geography, First Year

THE CRAZY DYNAMICS OF SOCIETY

Excerpts from the daily journal of a Balcony-lover

By *Geethanjali R*, B.A (Hons) English, 1st Year

17th October 2017

The usual boring Tuesday

Mumbai—my second home. Being pretty good at my transferable bank job meant that I would get promoted every three years, which in turn meant that I would have to shift a lot. In all these years of being a workaholic, I never got to enjoy life. I had to find a quick and effective solution to this disease of living like a zombie, and I found it fairly fast—I quit my job and returned to Mumbai, where I had my second posting. There are times when I feel that this city is the Indian analog of New York City—it never sleeps and nothing is constant here. There are too many buildings and too less greenery; too many people and too less space.

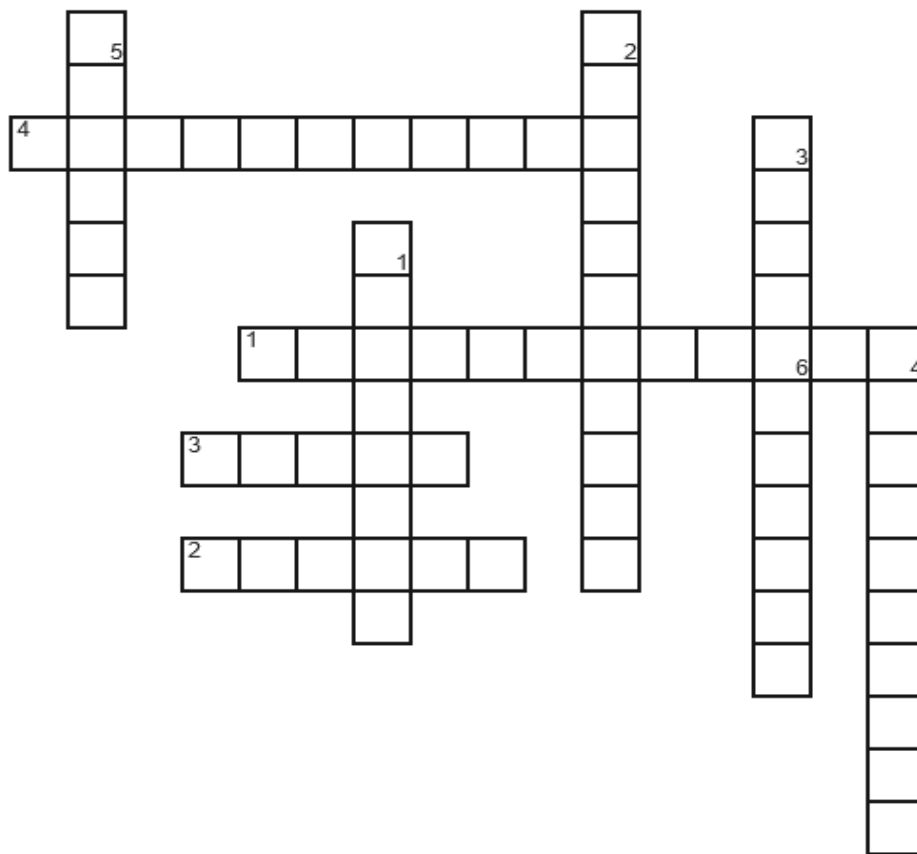
Currently, I am an unemployed person with no concern for her bank balance. Although I did quit my job to ‘follow my dreams’, it was quite late when I figured that I do not have any particular dreams or path that I wish to embark upon. Of course, I should have known that; I was at a boring banking job for eight years! So, I just resorted to lazing around on my balcony and trying to write this journal of mine. The balcony here at my flat is a very comfortable place to sit and pass time. The place always makes me feel like I am Gulliver and I have landed in Lilliput.

My Punjabi neighbor Pammi Aunty seems to be making her favorite aloo parantha for dinner. The smell has become uncannily recognizable by now. The ‘under-18’ gang is enthusiastically playing treasure hunt. I have never been able to understand why these kids find this game exciting. Hasn’t life always been a treasure hunt? But of course, there are very few people who actually have a clue about what they are hunting. I do not find this life particularly exciting. The group of senior citizens is sitting together and Peter Uncle is laughing at some joke cracked by Sharma Aunty. They honestly laugh at anything now. Chintu and his mother, who live next door, have been fighting since evening over the television remote. Another group of kids is arguing over the kind of crackers they should get for Diwali. The Kapoors have been trying to park their car perpendicularly to the big fat banyan tree. Apparently, their astrologer has recommended them to do that to ward off the ‘evil eye’. Well, at least they now have a reason to protect that tree. I remember how they were on a deforestation campaign after their bedroom was filled with dried leaves during autumn last year. Surprisingly enough, their petition garnered a lot of support from the residents. We humans never bother to look back at our roots. Gratitude is something which our race is yet to practice.

There is a theory in geography called Environmental Determinism. According to this theory, the environment determines the patterns of human culture and societal development. There is also another theory called the Theory of Possibilism which is more of a foil to the former one. According to this theory, nature provides possibilities and man utilizes them based on his culture and progression. There is a group of unemployed radicals standing near the park and smoking, all set to prove both these theories wrong. Once, when Peter Uncle had asked them to stop smoking, they gave him a smacking reply by blowing the smoke right onto his face. Peter Uncle saw the stars that day in the eerie silence of the ambulance, occasionally broken by the sound of his irregular wheezing. A couple of days later, Peter Uncle had come back, hale and hearty, and all set to give the smoker gang a glimpse of the stars he had seen. I remember him saying something about environmentalists and the police. And then he took out the ultimate weapon: the infamous anti-smoking ad that plays in the cinema hall—wrong move. As expected, his attempts were gracefully foiled with the gang’s taunts. Now that I think of it, Peter Uncle reminds me of a bullied school kid.

Chandru, the local tobacco vendor found Peter Uncle a threat to his livelihood and subsequently his existence. Chandru, who is also a friend of the new Police Inspector, challenged Peter Uncle to a bet. I do not know what the whole story is, but I do know that nature-lover Peter uncle is now sitting at home grieving the two thousand rupees he lost. It is really sad that for every Peter Uncle, there is always a Chandru, somewhere in this world, all set to destroy that one path to the progress of all kinds. We, humans, are a social species. However, we must also realize that our nature is full of co-dependent species as well. Maybe it is high time we understand that what we are doing to our environment today may be more unfair than what we are ready to accept.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Tallest Mountain in India
2. The only continent covering all four hemispheres
3. Largest Freshwater lake in India
4. Southern most point of the Indian territory

Down

1. Country where Mount Kilimanjaro is located
2. Smallest Country in terms of population
3. Land of Rising sun
4. Tallest waterfall in the world
5. Country with the longest coastline
6. Largest city in terms of area

(Answers on Page 17)

OF ROCKETS AND PAWAN'S DREAMS

By *Arundhati Chowdhary*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 1st Year

As I walked down the street, on the way back from college, the lingering smell of chai from Shambhu Uncle's tea stall allured me to sit down and take a moment off for myself. The lengthy lectures had worn me down. Although the reason for my inattentive mind was that Dusshera was inching closer day by day, and that meant I would be homeward-bound for my Mid-semester break. After ordering the delicious masala-chai, I drifted off to a world of leisure and the art of doing nothing back home.

I was so consumed by my thoughts that I didn't notice a little boy plonk down a glass of tea in front of me. He waved his hands in front of my eyes as if he was rustling the fabric of my cloudiness. Immediately I recognized that it was Pawan, the grand-nephew of Shambhu Ji and part-time helper at the stall. An innocent twelve-year-old, he flashed his crooked smile at me and spoke to me in Hindi, "What are you ignoring me for?" I shook my head and smiled back to reassure him that I was not ignoring him.

Pawan and I had developed a peculiar friendship over the few months of my first year in college. We would usually sit on one of the benches near the road, discussing cricket, mythology, and about inventing wacky ammunitions. He went to the government school in the locality, but according to him, he learned more in the garage where his father worked. Despite being much older than him, I liked having conversations and arguments with this tiny genius whose imagination would often run wild.

Sipping my hot tea, I remarked, "They let you off early today from school?" He mischievously smirked at me, as if he knew that I would pop this question. As my eyebrows danced up and down in a questioning manner, I poked his tummy to get him to speak. It always worked. He giggled and said, "I didn't go to school today. I went to work in a firecracker factory instead and it was so amusing!" My face fell as soon as I heard this and started speaking to him in a disapproving manner, "Pawan, do you realize that it is dangerous for you to work there? You're only 12 and you're not supposed to skip school for this! I'll speak to Shambhu Chacha about this situation." He crossed his arms like a grown up and argued, "Why are you getting so worked up, Bhai? There's no use of speaking to Dadaji. My family has decided collectively that I will have to help them out because my father has been unwell.

I will get paid a lot for this! And I'll get to learn how to make rockets. I have always wanted to make rockets of my own." There was an unmistakable glint in his eyes as he talked to me. Despite his numerous protests, I spoke to Shambhu Ji. It was all in vain, as the same excuse was endorsed in front of me. I bid them farewell for the day, although it felt like I had some unfinished business left.

Amidst internals and assignments, I had almost forgotten my disheartening conversation with Pawan for a while. The day when I was about to leave for my home, he came rushing back to my mind. I wished with all my heart that I would run into him at the tea stall that evening, and to my happiness, I did. I gathered whatever I had in my wallet and gave the money to him. Just then a rocket burst into a beautiful shower of lights in the night sky mesmerizing everyone in the street, but Pawan the most. Requesting him not to go back to work in the firework factory, I left without saying goodbye.

Over the next few months, I got busier and busier and hence I became an infrequent visitor at the tea stall. Whenever I would meet Pawan I would ask if he went to school and he would diligently answer that he did. Time flew by, I graduated, and shifted from one city to another. Although in the back of my mind, I did wonder about Pawan from time to time. More than a decade later, during Diwali, I strolled passed the tea stall without realizing. But then I traced my footsteps back because the unmistakable aroma of the masala-chai didn't deceive my memory. To my surprise, a man embraced me when he saw me walking in. I realized that Pawan was no longer the little boy, and in his place sat another beautiful child. My mere gesture to lend a small amount of money obviously did not sustain the economic problems that his family went through. He had to drop out of the school to support his family and ended up getting married early. But it did give him hope, and a resolve that he will not let his child face the same fate. Pawan got up to clean the teacups, and I sat there looking after his child. Coughing incessantly in the polluted air of Delhi, the child pointed towards the fireworks that were lighting up the night sky, just like it did so many years ago. I noticed a similar glint in the eyes of the child observing the rocket that made its way through the dark. The same helplessness washed over me, but again I couldn't do anything.

जल जीवन देता भी है और लेता भी मीरा राघव, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, तृतीय वर्ष

अक्सर जो वस्तुएँ मुफ्त में मिलती हैं, हम उनका सम्मान तो क्या उसका वास्तविक मूल्य का भी आंकलन नहीं कर पाते। जिस वस्तु का वास्तविक मूल्य ज्ञात ना हो और वह हमें जीवन भर सहजता से उपलब्ध होती रहे, तो क्या हम उसका संरक्षण कर सकते हैं ? आम बात हैनहीं!

जल उन्ही राष्ट्रीय धरोहरों और प्रकृति की सबसे अनमोल देन है, जि. सने जीवन की नीव व जन्म मृत्यु के चक्र में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है। परन्तु अफसोस, आज हम उस वर्तमान पीढ़ी के लोग हैं— जिन्होंने भले ही तालाब, कुएं, झरने ना देखे हो लेकिन अपने-अपने जीवनकाल की शिक्षा इंटरनेट की जानकारियों और उभरते जागरूक जगत की मीडिया के तहत जल की असली कीमत एवम उसकी संरचना के विषय में पढ़ा है। लेकिन इस सब के बावजूद हमने उस जल को नष्ट करने का एवम पृथ्वी को विनाश की कगार पर खड़े करने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी है। हमारे आज का विषय उस जल की शक्ति का आंकलन करना है जो जीवन का आधार बना भी सकती है और वक्त आने पर मिटा भी सकती है।

नदियों, समुद्रों में जल की मात्रा सबसे अधिक है लेकिन समुद्रों का नमकीन जल हम सीधे प्रयोग में नहीं लेते हैं इसलिए नदियों से जो जल आता है वही मानव जीवन के कार्यों को संभव बनाता है हालांकि जल प्रयोग की मात्रा सभी कार्यों में अलग है

,परन्तु फिर भी जल पूर्ति नहीं हो पाती —क्योंकि लोगों की बढ़ती जरूरते, बढ़ती महत्वकांक्षाएँ के कारण जल की कमी लगती है। अब तो निजी कंपनियां जल माफिया के तहत अपना धंधा अच्छा चला रही हैं जिसमें मुनाफा जल चोरी के माध्यम से होता है।

भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में जल को लेकर अक्सर सरकारों के मध्य बहस छिड़ जाती है ,जबकि नदियों का बहाव प्राकृतिक है परन्तु इस कारण इस बहाव को बदल दिया जाता है ,जिससे सबको अधिक से अधिक मात्रा में पानी मिल सके। यह एक राजनीतिक खेल है जिसमें केंद्र सरकार भी कभी— कभार अच्छी पकड़ जमा लेती है और उन्ही राज्यों को लाभ पहुंचाती है जहा उनका राजनैतिक हित होता है। इनही कारणों से भूतकाल में कई बड़े बान्धों का निर्माण किया गया है जैसे — सतलुज पर भाकरा—नंगल, महानदी पर हीराकुंड, नर्मदा पर सरदार सरोवर, गंगा पर टहरी, गंगा पर फरख्खा और कई परियोजनाओं पर कार्य चल रहा है जैसे चिनाब पर बागलिहार या विचारधीन है।

इसके विपरीत जल ने कई बार बाढ़, बादल फटने, लगातार वर्षा से ऊंचे इलाके में पानी भरने एवं अचानक झीलों के तट टूटने से निचले इलाके में भारी बाढ़ जैसी आपदा से मानव जीवन को नष्ट करने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी। 2013 की केदारनाथ में भारी बारिश बाढ़ भूस्खलन त्रासदी से सब परिचित होंगे। इन आपदाओं में अक्सर मृतकों की संख्या काफी होती है जो कुछ ही पलों में वहा बसे मानव समाज को कई सीढ़ी नीचे लाकर खड़ा कर देती है परन्तु यह प्रकृति स्वयं नहीं करती क्योंकि यह मानव के प्रकृति के साथ छेड़ छाड़ से होता है जैसे कि नदी के बहाव को रोकना, बांध बनाना अथवा बहाव के रास्ते में निर्माण कार्य करना इत्यादि।

आज विकास उस स्तर पर पहुंच रहा है जहां प्रकृति के हर अंश को मानव अपने लाभ के लिए बदल रहा है। इस विकास जगत की प्रगति उस अनमोल प्रकृति की धरोहर की कीमत पर किया जाता है। सवाल यह नहीं है की हम उस अनमोल धरोहर को इस्तेमाल करे या नहीं, अपितु यह है की क्या हमारी कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं बनती की जिस पर मानव जीवन का आधार बसा हो, जो धारा मानव एव जन्तुओं का जीवन संभव बनाती है उसकी रक्षा की जाए, धरने , रेलियों की मांग किसी ने नहीं की है अपने आप में भी जागरूकता उत्पन्न हो जाए तो काफी है। अब निष्कर्ष किसी सुरक्षा या संरक्षण का नहीं है अपितु उस आने वाले कल की चेतावनी का दर्पण है, जो मानव को एक एक बूंद को तरसने पर मजबूर कर देगा। शायद जो जल अभी वर्तमान में हमारे पास है हमें उससे भी वंचित होना पड़े। युद्ध तो विश्व में कही न कही हो ही रहे है चाहे वो सत्ता के लिए हो, अधिकारों के लिए हो या छेत्र के लिए हो। परन्तु 21वीं सदी जिस तीसरा विश्व युद्ध की चश्मदीद बनेगी वो जल के लिए होगा। जल के बदले जल की प्रणाली अपना आकार लेगी जोकि आने वाली पीढ़ी का नासूर बन सकती है। अर्थात जल है तो जीवन है वरना जल नहीं तो जीवन नहीं!

संभालिए इस जल को जो जीवन का दाता है कही जीवन विनाशक न बन जाए!

भूगोल का भूगोलीकरण अदिती कुमारी, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, तृतीय वर्ष

वो भभकता ज्वालामुखी मोहब्बत ,
और उसपर ओलावृष्टि भावनाओं की
ना जाने क्यूँ सागर की तरंगो सी ,
चाहत पैदा होती रही देख उसे
वो ब्रह्माण्ड सा असीमित विस्तार
चन्द्र सा सुन्दर आकार
कोमलता मेघो सी उसकी ,
मन मेरा रही ललचा
वो छत—विछत आकृतिया,
अपरदन विछेपण की क्रिया
वो सूचकांको की सारणीयाँ,
विद्वानों की वणीया
वक्त वेवक्त मुझे रही लुभा
न जाने क्यूँ इतनी देर से समझी

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS PROJECT- AN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER?

By *Nausheen Khan*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

The interlinking of rivers project is an ambitious step towards solving the issue of water shortages and water surplus, i.e. the issue of annual floods in certain river basins. The project aims to interconnect Himalayan as well as peninsular rivers of India through a series of canals and reservoirs. The plan was suggested by Sir Arthur Thomas Cotton in 1858. He was a British irrigation engineer working for the British Raj in India. The plan fell apart, but since 2015, the central government has been trying to move forward with this century-and-a-half old engineering dream in segments such as the Godavari-Krishna interlink in Andhra Pradesh and the Ken-Betwa interlink in Madhya Pradesh.

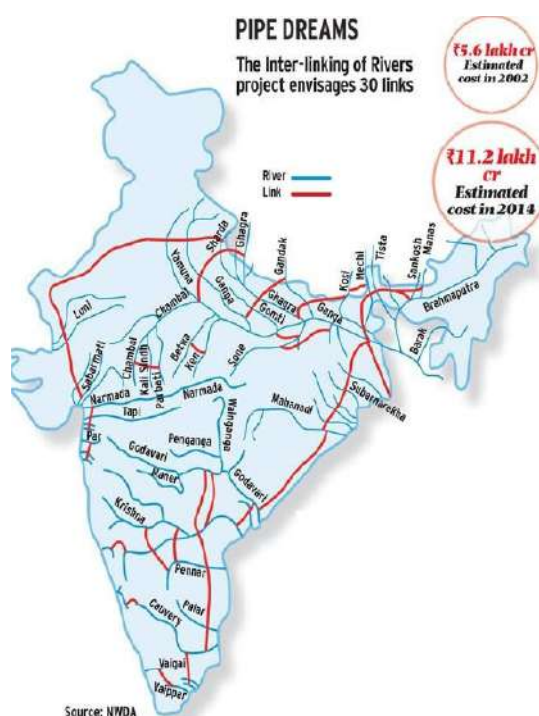
There will be 30 river linkages and well above 2500 storage tanks and reservoirs across a 15,000 km network of canals transferring 174 trillion litres of water every year, costing over Rs. 11 trillion, in hopes of solving the problem of shortage of water for irrigation and dependence on monsoon. In addition to that, it will generate 34 GW of hydroelectric power, riverine navigation will be expanded, reducing the transport costs, large scale afforestation will be done, and it will also make water accessibility cheaper for the common man.

However, a project of such magnitude is bound to have certain impacts on the ecology. The important task is to find out whether the benefits of the project outweigh the disadvantages. The execution of this project requires reimagining of the entire aquatic ecosystem of the Indian subcontinent. If one contemplates deeply, it really seems like a suspiciously simple solution to an overly complicated problem.

The project is largely inattentive to the multi-dimensional nature of rivers, and it seems as if the project sees them only as pipelines that transfer water from place to place. The sheer ignorance of the fact that the project can, and will, disrupt the natural ecosystem of the entire riverine system, has caused concerns among environmentalists. Ecosystems are intricately linked and each component directly or indirectly survives through the medium of this co-dependence. Any large scale change in the ecosystem would mean destruction of the entire ecological diversity of the region.

These concerns have already been exhibited in the case of the Ken-Betwa link where the proposed plan seeks to divert 5,500 hectares from the Panna National Park, which happens to be a tiger reserve of great significance. Apart from flora and fauna, the project will also displace millions of people as their homes become submerged in the new network of artificially created rivers.

Instead of investing in high-risk, high-cost, high-damage plans like the Interlinking of Rivers Project, the government should focus more on conserving the available resources and maintaining the natural balance, while refurbishing the natural systems in parts and places that need a push forward through dams and reservoirs. Conservation through techniques such as ponds in flood zones to drain excessive water, and innovative techniques of irrigation such as drip irrigation in the drought prone regions will be a much more prudent step towards addressing the issue of water shortage in India.



BACHENDRI PAL: WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE

By *Sharmili Dhar*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 2nd Year

It wouldn't be wrong to say that mountaineering, even as a hobby, has primarily been viewed as a field meant for men. Junko Tabei shattered this notion in 1975 when she became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. She also became the first woman to scale the highest peaks of all continents. Women have come a long way since then as mountaineers. Bachendri Pal brought laurels to the nation when in 1984 she became the first Indian woman to scale the summit of Mount Everest. But her journey was not without its share of hardships and difficulties. Tenzing Norgay, one of the first men to reach the summit of the highest peak on Earth, was one of the few who had complete faith in Ms. Pal. He not only encouraged her to scale the peak but also encouraged her to achieve her target in the very first try.

Her Everest expedition started on 7th March, 1984 from Kathmandu and her team first reached Namcha Bazaar, the most important township in Sherpaland. From there, Ms. Pal first viewed the Mt. Everest popularly known as 'Sagarmatha' by the Nepalese. The cold icy winds blowing at 150 km or more per hour had made the Summit look like a flying flag which initially, in her own words, had sent shivers down her spine but she accepted the challenge and bowed her head to show respect to the summit which she had decided to conquer.

She then sought the blessings of incarnated Lama at the famous Thyangboche monastery which is situated at around 4000m above sea level. Her courage and aggressiveness helped her overcome great obstacles like avalanches and landslides. Her team leader, Col. Khullar, later mentioned in an interview that he had complete faith in his team, especially the ferocious Ms. Pal. Deputy leader Prem Chand did his best to make the difficult path towards the summit less hostile by building bridges and marking with flags. But the erratic movement of the glaciers and the treacherous passes and gorges had made the climb very unpredictable.

Ms. Pal was almost killed in the avalanche which hit them on the night of 15-16 May 1984 but was lucky enough to escape with the help of her companions at Lhotse. With aggressive hard work and strong will power, Ms. Bachendri Pal along with Ang Dorjee and Lhatoo were able to conquer the world's highest mountain peak on 23 May 1984 and brought pride to our country.

Ms. Bachendri Pal was adorned with gold medal for excellence in mountaineering along with the prestigious Padma Shri.

Answers to Crossword 1

Across

1. *Kanchenjunga*
2. *Africa*
3. *Wular*
4. *Indirapoint*

Down

1. *Tanzania*
2. *Vaticancity*
3. *Japan*
4. *Angelfalls*
5. *Canada*

AGAINST THE CLAWS OF PROGRESSIVE MANKIND

By *Oishika Basak*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 1st Year

I wake up to the distant rumbling.
Drums, a wakeup call.
The youthful sun plays hide and seek through the large green leaves.
The dew glistens, thousand prisms producing magnificent streaks of bright colors.
I run to Issa, the rivulet, stick my head in the crystal clear water,
Gulping down few mouthfuls of the sweet water,
I'm ready for breakfast.
Mama arrives with a stick in hand, admonishing me.
"Brush your teeth, Binu"
She shoves a neem stick into my mouth, slaps my cheek and sets off to fetch some wood
I spit it out running wild through the labyrinth of trees.
Raka greets me, his hands full of twigs and branches
"We will go hunting in the evening. Come along"
"But mama wants me to help her with the crops", I protest.
"Don't be a sissy! I know you're just scared!" Raka taunts me.
"Fine, I will come along," I say, angry at him for questioning my bravery.
I sneak out at 5 o'clock in the evening with my bow and arrows.
Raka and his friends, all set with their spears and crossbows
Gives me a pat on my 8-year-old back.
And we set off for mount Chanda
Two kilometers, few songs, and a couple of jokes later, we reach our shrine.
What we witness leaves us shaken.
The holy rock is nothing more than a few pieces of boulders.
There are strange men in uniforms with scary machines.
Raka, the bravest of us all, shouts at the men, threatening them with grave action if they don't leave our shrine at that moment.
The men, give us a dry look and carry on with their work, unperturbed and fearless.
Just then, we hear the drum beats: a call from the leader.
We hurry back to our village, defeated.
Koshi, our leader has called us all to an emergency meeting.
"I have very disheartening news my friends," Koshi says, his manly voice reduced to a quiver.
"They are building a tunnel through Mount Chanda. My dear friends, we will be losing our shrine."
The men cry out, "Oh, can't we protest!"
I had never seen Koshi this scared before.
"Protest? Against whom? Those demons with the big machines! We do anything with their instructions and we will lose our homes. My friends, I don't fear defeat anymore! I fear death. Death of our society, culture, and values."
He tries very hard not to cry.
I head back home to a crying mother,
"I will teach them a lesson, Mama!"
My mama forbids me to go there again, fearing for my life.
That night I sleep with a heavy heart, knowing that, I will not be able to go back to my happy place ever again.
Knowing that I will not be able to pray for my mother's good health at the shrine, ever again.
Knowing that I will not be able to go there to talk to the plants and draw animals in the dirt at the hill, ever again.
Knowing that my dream of being the king of the animals at the hill will remain a dream.
Knowing that I will never be able to go back to visit my father's grave, ever again.
I will lose a big part of myself.
Now, all I can do is accept my fate; our fate, the fate of our fifty people strong community.

प्रदूषण प्रहार
प्रीति, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, तृतीय वर्ष

वायु, जल, ध्वनि और मृदा,
सबकी गुणवत्ता हो रही विदा।
बढ़ती आबादी बढ़ती भूख,
जल स्रोत रहे हैं सूख
सदियों से पावन पवित्र गंगाजल,
आज हो रहा अति गंदा जल
जल का असंतुलित पीएच मान,
अम्ल, क्षार पा रहा स्थान
प्यास जहन में, पानी बोतल में
भूख पेट में, खाना होटल में।
बढ़ते वाहन, बढ़ता जाम,
शुद्ध ऑक्सीजन हुई हराम
अंधाधुन औद्योगिक विस्तार
वायुमंडल हो गया बीमार
भीषण गर्मी ओजोन छेद
शुरू हो चली अम्ल बरसात
यह वायु प्रदूषण की है सौगात।

Lesotho, Vatican City, and San Marino are the only countries completely surrounded by one other country. Lesotho is completely surrounded by South Africa, and Vatican City and San Marino are both completely surrounded by Italy.

मनाली मन को भा ली (यात्रा वृतांत) पूजा यादव, बी .ए (आ) भूगोल, तृतीय वर्ष

यह बहुत ही खास दिन था मेरे लिए क्योंकि इस दिन मैं मनाली (हिमाचल प्रदेश) जा रही थी। मुझे घूमना बहुत ज्यादा पसंद है और उत्सुकता के कारण मैं सो नहीं पाती लेकिन इस बार मैं बस में सो गई। मेरे दोस्तों ने मुझे उठाया, हम मनाली पहुंच चुके थे। वहां का दृश्य इतना अद्भुत आकर्षक था कि मेरा दिल खुशी से भर गया और मैं मौसम का आनंद ले रही थी। ठंडी-ठंडी मंद हवा में मन झूम रही थी। ऐसा लग रहा था मेरा एक बहुत खूबसूरत सपना पूरा हो गया। ऊपर नीला आसमान, सफेद पहाड़ और हरी भरी घास।

हम व्यास नदी के किनारे एक होटल में ठहरे थे। खिड़की से रोहतांग मार्ग का खूबसूरत नजारा दिख रहा था, वह पूरा बर्फ से ढका हुआ था। मैंने इससे पहले कभी इतना मनोरम दृश्य नहीं देखा था।

अगली सुबह मैं बर्फ के साथ खेल रही थी। मुझे रोहतांग पास पर जाना था, लेकिन हमारे गाइड ने कहा कि सर्दी का मौसम है रोहतांग पास पर पूरी बर्फ जमी होगी इसलिए हम वहां नहीं जा सकते। मैं थोड़ा उदास हो गई फिर मैंने खुद को समझाया और बाकी दृश्यों का मजा लेने लगी।

अगले दिन हम कुल्लू गए। कुल्लू मनाली के पास एक खूबसूरत जगह है। मैंने वहां राफ्टिंग की। यह अत्यंत मनोरंजक जगह थी। पानी अत्यधिक ठंडा था और बहुत तेज गति से बह रहा था। मैं प्रकृति का मजा ले रही थी। कुल्लू शॉल के लिए मशहूर शहर माना जाता है। उसके बाद हम मॉल रोड(मनाली) गए। इस रोड के दोनों तरफ दुकानें ही दुकानें थी। मैं यादें बटोर रही थी और कुछ लम्हों को कैमरे में कैद कर रही थी ताकि यह हमेशा मेरे साथ रहे।

हडिंबा मंदिर, गार्डन आदि जगहों पर भी गए। वहां पर बहुत सारे मंदिर थे। मंदिरों में भारी संख्या में बंदर तथा खरगोश थे हम बहुत खुश थे ऐसा लग रहा था मानो कहां आ गए। अगली सुबह हम सभी वापस आ गए। यह ट्रिप सबसे मनोरंजक थी, मैं इसे कभी नहीं भूल सकती। मनाली के लिए मेरे दिल में एक खास जगह है, और वह हमेशा रहेगी। अभी भी अगर मैं मनाली का नाम सुनती हूं तो मेरे चेहरे पर एक अलग सी मुस्कान आ जाती है, आंखों के सामने वह खूबसूरत नजारे फिर से दिखाई देते हैं, मैं मन ही मन प्रकृति की शोभा को बढ़ावा देती हूं।

Mount Circeo on Cape Circaeum on the western coast of Italy was once called Aeaea (5 vowels in a row with no consonants). It was believed in mythology to be the home of the witch Circe. Two other vowel-only geographic locations are the town of Aiea in Hawaii, and Eiao – one of the Marquise Islands.

SPIRIT OF THE FOREST

By *Anjali Sharma*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 2nd Year

Grey green air
Floats above the towering trees
Shielding the ghosts of the Forest
Ever guarded by wandering leaves
As I walk the narrow paths
Closer to mayhem of distant Creek
There's lot more to the
Rhythm of the Forest
Than my doubts had ever let me to believe
Sucking ashes from city's fire
Stands tall and dark for flesh and bones
Every ray that burns through the depths
Finds a land mysterious and forlorn

I heard a story long time ago
Of chosen people who
Found their ground
Chaste of species diversity and herbs
Formulas of life
Leaves me astound
From countering the
Devilish forces of Nature
To inviting the rain drops to kiss the ground
My shoes write a new story
On the mud floor
Hiding million minerals unfound....
Taming the wild needs
Of Human
Spirit of Forest
Sets me free
Forest for Life, Planet and Needs
This is a mystery of beauty fire



Clicked by: Yukta Ravi, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

A PERMANENTLY TEMPORARY LIFE: THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES

By *Aroma Caroline John*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 1st Year

A desperate mother clings to her child, a man folds his hands to beg to let them stay, stay in the place they lived for generations. Three years ago, religious and ethnic tensions between the Rohingya Muslims and the Rakhine Buddhists (who make up the majority of the population in Myanmar) escalated into widespread, deadly rioting. Hundreds of thousands were forced to flee. Rohingya people are rejected from almost everywhere they seek safety and accommodation. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people are now living as refugees across Southeast Asia. Today, they are a community of people with no home or citizenship. Even their name, Rohingya, which is a symbol of their identity, is not accepted in the country they called their home for many years.

In May 2015, thousands of Rohingya people were forced to cross the dangerous Bay of Bengal, off the coast of south-east Asia, in search of a safe place to live. Many people were stranded at sea and it is estimated that hundreds died. Boats filled with desperate Rohingya refugees were pushed back by Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. After a dangerous and desperate journey, they face some of the harshest policies towards asylum seekers in the world, with a number of Rohingya people held on Manus Island and Nauru, without hope of a permanent place to settle in.

The face of Omran comes to my mind when I write this. A mere child pulled out of the rubble, so shaken he doesn't even know how to respond. This was the face of an innocent soul, lost, in between conflict and war.

The Anti-government movement in Syria began in May 2011. International intervention along with many rioting groups within Syria have converted this situation into a very complicated one, with terrorist groups adding fuel to the fire. This has brought about killing, rioting, looting and torture in forms never seen before and brought about the largest forced international migration ever seen with millions crossing the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to seek refuge in European nations and North America.

More than six years after it began, the war has killed a reported 470,000 people with many more missing and/or displaced. Bombs are destroying crowded cities and horrific human rights violations are widespread. Basic necessities like food and medical care are sparse.

Thousands of Syrians flee their country every day. Most have seen their neighborhoods bombed or family members killed. The risks on the journey to the border can be as high as staying; families walk for miles through the night to avoid being shot at by snipers or being caught by warring parties who will kidnap young men to fight for their cause forcefully. They don't know if they will live to see the next day, yet, they live, in constant fear and dread. Can this really be called as living?

Now, who has not heard Yeonmi Park's chilling recount of her escape from North Korea? She escaped from Kim Jong Il's oppressive regime to China and finally settled in South Korea.

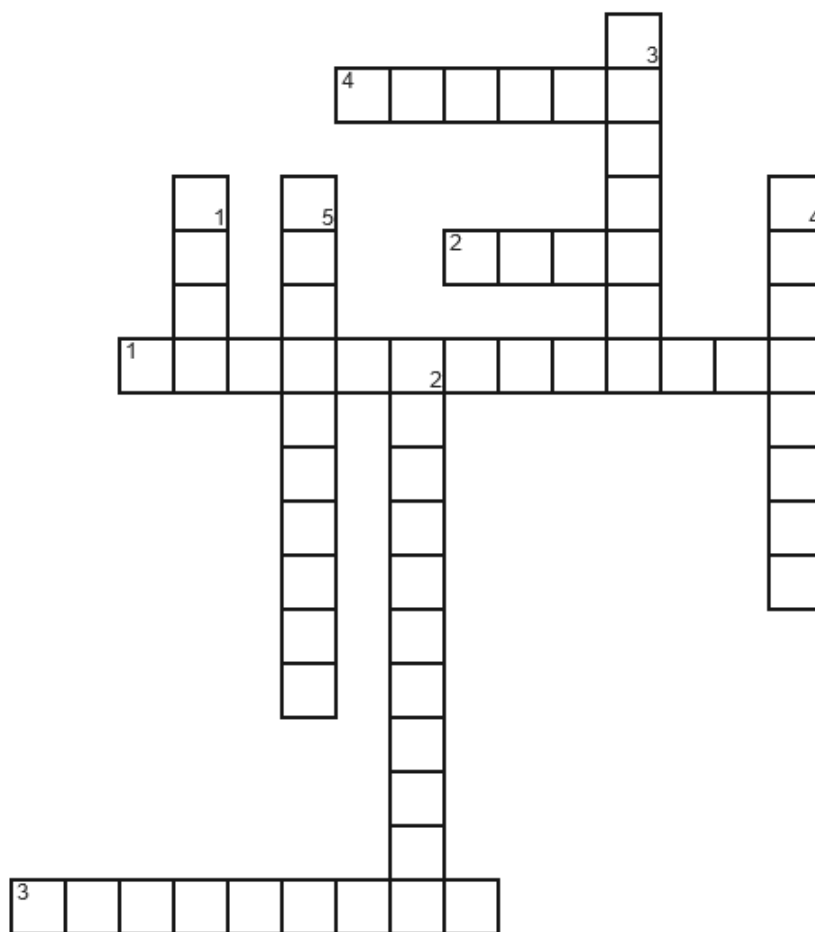
For years, thousands of North Koreans have been sneaking across the border into China to escape oppression. The Chinese authorities unfortunately hunt down defectors and turn them over to North Korea, where they face horrors such as torture, forced labour, life in a prison camp or even public execution.

North Koreans are forced to work for the state in a collapsing economy. Countless parents watch their children go to bed hungry. The oppression faced by the North Koreans is no secret. It drives the people to defect and flee into neighbouring countries, or at least compels them to try. With the Supreme Leader of the country always threatening to go to war over the slightest of issues, there is little hope for the people of this nation, and upon realization, they take the risk of crossing borders to start a brand new life in an unknown place in an unknown environment. Even if they do find the courage to actually attempt an escape, there are very few who actually are able to cross the border.

Imagine being targeted by the army of your own country, having to leave everything behind and running just so that you can live a decent life, fighting the harsh weather in shelters, reaching a safe haven just to be pushed back into the hostility you tried to escape from, having no rights, no freedom, no documentation. You belong nowhere. This is the life of a refugee.

To think that they are people just like us, living on the same Earth, in the same day and age but having such radically different lives, makes you wonder, how different their lives could have been- children playing, students going to school, parents earning a livelihood for their families, the youth engaged in the good of the community, elders smiling at their full life, reminiscing their beautiful past. But life is not easy for them, it is full of hardships and misery and yet they continue, undeterred, in hopes of a better future.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Indian called the 'Missing Nobel Laureate'
2. Wielder of the hammer 'Mjolnir'
3. Largest tree-borne fruit in the world
4. Mount Elbrus is located in this country

Down

1. Capital of Latvia
2. River featured in the book 'the Adventures of Tom Sawyer'
3. World's most expensive spice
4. Author of 'Meghduta'
5. Border between Afghanistan and Pakistan

SOME OF NATURE'S AMAZING AND EXCEPTIONAL FORMS

By- *Dr. Priyanka Puri*, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geography, Miranda House

- Polar Stratospheric Clouds
(Also called Nacreous Clouds) -

Nacreous clouds, sometimes called mother-of-pearl clouds, are rare but once seen are unforgettable. They are mostly visible within two hours after sunset or before dawn when they blaze unbelievably bright with vivid and slowly shifting iridescent colours. They are pearl like in appearance. Ice crystals help them lend different hues.



- Mysterious fairy circles -

These are circular patches of land devoid of vegetation observed in the vegetated parts of deserts of Australia and Namibia. These circles number in the millions, and extend over some 1,500 miles of desert. It has been suggested that these are the work of grazing ants, radioactive gases from underground, or poisonous plants killing off their competitors

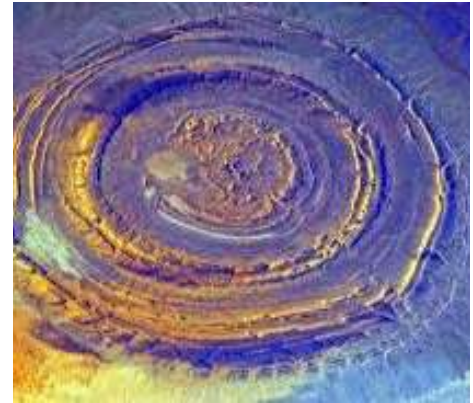
- Catatumbo Lightning -

It is an atmospheric phenomenon in Venezuela, occurring only over the mouth of the Catatumbo River where it empties into Lake Maracaibo. It originates from a mass of storm clouds at a height of more than 1 km, and occurs during 260 nights a year, 10 hours per day and up to 280 times per hour. It makes the place the most electric place on the Earth. The phenomena is considered to be the largest single contributor to tropospheric ozone.



- Richat Structure -

A mystery or a conspiracy as called, it is also known as the Eye of the Sahara Desert. This prominent circular feature in the Sahara desert of Mauritania has attracted attention since the earliest space missions because it forms a strange bull's-eye in the otherwise rather featureless desert. Described by some as looking like a large fossil in the desert, the structure, which has a diameter of almost 30 miles, it was initially interpreted as a meteorite impact structure because of its high degree of circularity, it is now thought to be merely a symmetrical uplift that has been laid bare by erosion of a volcanic feature.



- Lake Hillier -

Lake Hillier in Australia delights you with its unique pink colour. It lies just next to the Pacific Ocean, thus if you watch it from above, the contrast between the pink of the lake and the blue of the ocean is clearly visible. The reason of its unique colour is not fully understood by scientists, although most suspect it has to do with the presence of the *Dunaliella salina* microalgae. The Lake is quite small, its length is 600 meters and its width is no more than 250 meters.

- Pamukkale -

This is called as Turkey's most popular attraction as well. The geological phenomenon that is Pamukkale, literally "Cotton Castle" in Turkish, it is also the site of a very well-preserved ruins of the Greek-Roman city of Hierapolis. The travertines are a unique combination of natural and man-made wonders and has been made a Unesco World Heritage site. With more two million visitors annually, it is also Turkey's single most visited attraction.



- Kjerabolten -

It is about a 5 cubic metre boulder wedged in a mountain crevice by the edge of the Kjerag mountain in Norway. It is a popular hiking destination. Its northern side is a massive cliff which plunges down straight into a fjord. The Kjeragfossen waterfall plunges off the mountain down to the fjord. It is one of the tallest waterfalls in the world.

•Source-
www.googlesearch.com
www.images.google.com

आखिर क्यों

वैशाली सक्करवाल, बी.ए (आ) राजनीति विज्ञान, द्वितीय वर्ष

क्यों खुले आसमान में मैं उड़ नहीं सकती,

क्यों अपनी इच्छाओं से मैं जी नहीं सकती

क्यों बंधे हैं मेरे पैरो में बेड़ियां

क्यों बंदिशे चलती है साथ-साथ मेरे

क्यों हर पल पहरों में रहती हूँ मैं,

क्यों मेरी पहचान मिल ना पाई मुझे

क्यों अत्याचारों की गुलाम हुई मैं,

क्यों जी नहीं सकती आजादी से मैं

इस स्वतंत्रता के युग में,

आखिर क्यों कैद होकर रह गयी मैं,

आखिर क्यों खो गयी मेरी पहचान इन अंधेरो में।

बदलता मौसम

कोनिष्का सिंह, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, प्रथम वर्ष

बदलता मौसम क्या लिखूं, दम घोटने वाली, सासों, या बाढ़ में डूबा हुआ शहर, या वो शोर जिसमें खुद को सुनना भी मुश्किल, इतना घुटन है, इतना शोर है कि कुछ अच्छा लिखते बनता नहीं। सुना तो था कि पेड़ों पर चिड़िया चहचहाती हैं पर पेड़ ही नहीं दिखते। सुना तो ये भी था कि एक स्वस्थ शरीर में, स्वस्थ मस्तिष्क का वास होता है पर स्वास्थ्य दिखता ही नहीं। कहते हैं मौसम बदल रहा है परंतु मुझे लगता है ये बदला जा रहा है। जो मौसम देखा ही नहीं उसके बारे में अपनी सोच प्रकट कर रही हूँ।

सुना था चार ऋतुएँ होती हैं जो शायद अब तीन ही रह गयी हैं। या तो सर्दी, या गर्मी, या लगातार वर्षा। कारण खोजने निकलो तो सबको सब पता है कि पर्यावरण को बचाना है। पेड़ लगाने चाहिए, ध्वनि प्रदूषण से बचना चाहिए, यातायात के साधन वायु प्रदूषण करते हैं, नदियों में कचरा फेकने से जल प्रदूषण होता है, उद्योग से धुँएँ एवं हानिकारक रसायन, पॉलीथिन का प्रयोग प्रदूषण का कारण है और जान लेना भी है। सब ज्ञानी हैं, सबको सब पता है कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग सबसे बड़ा दानव है। कारण भी ज्ञात है, ओजोन परत में छेद, बढ़ते वातानुकूलन के साधनों का अतिशय प्रयोग।

अब समय आ गया है कि हम उठे, सोचे, और विचार करें कि जब मौसम इतना ज्यादा बदल रहा है तो क्यों न हम भी बदल के देख लें। शायद कुछ और बदल जाये। बदलाव हमें खुद से लाना होगा, प्रकृति को उसके वास्तविक रूप की ओर ले जाना होगा, स्वच्छता पर सर्वाधिक जोर, वृक्षारोपण को प्राथमिकता और कार्बन उत्सर्जन करने वाले उद्योग पर रोक ही उपाय है जो परिणाम अवश्य देंगे, अन्यथा मौसम तो बदल ही रह है और बदलता मौसम बाकी सब बदल देगा।

FROM THE KITCHENS OF KERALA

By Aleena Jacob, B.A(Hons) Geography, 1st Year

“There is no love sincerer than the love of food.” -George Bernard Shaw

The cuisines of Kerala are greatly influenced by its geography, culture and demography. Kerala is not only ‘God’s own country’ but also the ‘land of spices’ and often considered as the ‘food lover’s paradise.’ Many countries across the world, from centuries back, have traded with Kerala only because of the variety of spices. Pepper, turmeric, tamarind, mustard and chilli powder are some of the trademark spices of Kerala. Many spices traded are used as medicines in other countries which are cheap and effective.

The tales of Kerala’s spices are not modern; they date back to ancient times with spices being one of India’s most profitable exports. Vasco da Gama, the famous Portuguese traveller arrived at Kappad, in Calicut (Malabar coast) on 20 May 1498. He was deeply impressed by its spices and gold. Friendly talks with Zamorins of Calicut gave the Portuguese unopposed access to the Indian spices which boosted their economy. The first obtained spices were pepper and cinnamon. Gama’s expedition was successful beyond all expectations because it brought in cargo that was worth sixty times of the cost of the expedition.

Kerala is the land of spices only because of its topography, climate and soil conditions. Regular monsoon, soil type and its fertility, mild temperature and humidity make Kerala one of the largest commercial producer of spices. Cooking as a ritual is considered sacred in Kerala, which is mainly restricted to women. A sacred ritual known as ‘pongala’ (derived from Tamil word Pongal) is a major event. Hindu women go to Aattukal temple of Thiruvananthapuram, on one particular day to cook traditionally. This preparation every year is pure and sacred and is believed to be the starting of good preparation of food every year. According to Guinness book of World Records, Attugal Pongal is the world’s largest gathering of women, with around 2.5 million women participating last year alone. Cooking is a sacred art here. The different variety of cuisines is good for not only tourism but also economic growth and cultural development. Different cuisines give a small glimpse of the place’s culture, geography, history, economy, welfare and so on. Ravishing food is an experience in itself after all!

‘Sadhya’ is the considered to be the traditional dish of Kerala. It consists of rice and 24-28 types of curries in a single course. Normally sadhyas are spicy. No artificial colours and flavours are added to it and it is a purely a vegetarian food. The dishes are served on a banana leaf one by one with a specific order. ‘Sadhya’ literally means banquet in Malayalam. Traditionally onion and garlic are not used in sadhyas. The image of sadhya is bound to come in the minds of anyone and everyone who has ever visited Kerala. Starting from ‘Karimeen’ fry to world-famous ‘Kozhikodan biryani’, Kerala has ample of non-vegetarian dishes to indulge upon. As 60% of the land is coastal, it is no surprise that fish forms a major part of the diet and cuisines. Cochin, known as ‘the queen of Arabian sea’, is a very prominent tourist centre in Kerala. There are 44 rivers, backwaters and more than 300 freshwater lakes in Kerala which are suitable for fish cultivation. Tasty, healthy and a variety of food are served in the tourist place at a very cheap rate, which is a major reason for its fame. Indeed, it isn’t wrong to refer to Kerala as a food lover’s go-to place for cheap and healthy food.



Source: traveltriangle.com/blog/shopping-in-kerala/



Source: <https://www.tatacliq.com/que/onam-sadhya-healthier/>

MANIPUR: SOCIETY, CULTURE AND THEIR LIVELIHOODS

By *Ramsuangliu Daimei*, B.A(Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

Manipur lies in the North-eastern part of India, with Imphal as its capital. The colourful kaleidoscope of Manipuri society and culture has been a topic that aroused much inquisitiveness in the minds of erudite scholars and researchers all around the world. The cultural legacy and social values are reflected in the lifestyle of its inhabitants. Manipur or 'the land of jewels' was also described by Lord Irwin as the "Switzerland of India". Manipur boasts of an incredibly beautiful landscape that has been generally decorated with undulating hills, the emerald green valleys, thick forest, still blue lakes, stunning flora and fauna and other different forms of natural beauty. All this along with the people make it a place that has to be explored at least once in a lifetime. Manipur constitutes both hilly (tribal) and valley people.

Manipur's own identity is reflected in the art and culture which is presented to the world proudly. The centuries old traditions which are passed down in generations are seen in handloom woven clothes and handicrafts. Both the hilly and valley people of Manipur display their different cultures in various types of dance and music. The dance known as Thabal Chongba, performed by both men and women is one of the most typical and famous dance form of the state. Manipur's culture is as exotic and ancient as the state itself. It is a colourful mixture of rich and vibrant customs and traditional cuisines. The variety of customs in the people is reflected in various festivals that they observe like Ningol Chakouba which reflects the importance of daughters in the lives of their parents-it offers married women an occasion to renew their ties with their maternal family; Yoashang-also known as Holi; Lui -Ngai Ni-the seed sowing festival of the Naga people and many more. These festivals liven up the lives of the people and helps them reassert their identity. The staple food of Manipur is rice and fish accompanied by vegetables. However, there are many cuisines belonging to different tribes each distinct from the other.

Manipur is home to many tribal communities. It is famed for being the abode of wonderful montage of tribes that includes the Tangkuls, Kukis, Zeliangrong Naga to name a few. The people are simple, warm and hospitable who believe in egalitarian social practices. They are generally considered adventurous and participate in various sports activities.

In fact, Manipur has carved out a niche for itself and emerged as a forerunner in the world of Polo. The position of women is one the many important aspects of this traditional society. This can be illustrated by the fact that Ima Keithel in Imphal is Asia's largest market run entirely by women (in local language, Ima means Mother, and Keithel means market). These enterprising women have played a big role in the economy of Manipur. Majority of the women here work and earn one way or the other.

Because of the absence of major industries, Manipur thrives solely on handlooms, handicrafts, bamboo products, sericulture and forest-based village enterprises. The people of Manipur are natural craftsmen and their skilled hands create some of the most exquisite handicrafts in the country. It includes a wide range of products that are unique to the place. The genuine flair of the artistic people is best manifested in the handicrafts. The most popular handicrafts of Manipur include hand-woven and embroidered textiles, Manipuri dance dolls, shawls, cane and bamboo work and wood carving and many more beautiful and artistic works like paintings, pottery etc.

For the majority of people in this beautiful state, the basic source of income and livelihood is agriculture and handloom industry. Though the landmass of the valley is much smaller as compared to the hilly region, land in the valley is more fertile and productive. The valley people are better educated, more skilled, have better access to jobs and are contributing more to the economy and hence, have greater say in the running of the affairs of the State. The hilly tribes are less equipped to have a better lifestyle. Hence, the feeling of being a minority in their own state is the sad reality of these tribes. Besides the fact they have less say in state affairs, they have a greater affinity with Nagaland as the hilly region has a sizable Naga population. Hence, the hill tribes are often in conflict with Meities and other tribes settled in the valley because of a host of social issues including employment and territorial rights.

Inspite of these minor conflicts, Manipur as a state is peaceful and truly one of the hidden gems of India. With a growing tourism industry, it is set to become of the major players in the economies of the north-eastern region of the country.



Clicked by: Tharingchon Duidang, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd year



Clicked by: Tharingchon Duidang, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

KOLKATA'S FADING CHINATOWN

By *Durba Biswas*, B.A(Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

Prior to options like Flame N Grill, Marco Polo or even Peter Cat in the well-known area of Park Street, the first memory of going out for family dinners that I or any Kolkata kid born in the 90s can recall was the crowded restaurants of Chinatown. I remember waiting for Saturdays to eat my favorite Crab Foo Yung from Beijing restaurant or when my father packed the Cantonese chicken on his way back from work. So when I recently saw this video posted by Calcutta Times about the Indo-Chinese people reducing and this dear place which gave residents of this city and its tourists so many beautiful memories ultimately heading to an untimely death, I felt compelled to write this essay. I am not here to ask for your pity or beg you to save this place, this is just my gratitude for a place which lightened up the weekends of a kid and never failed to surprise with its numerous tasty treats.

For those of you not familiar with this metropolis in the east of the country which I fondly call home, Kolkata is home to India's only Chinatown. Chinese people migrated here in the 18th century to work on sugar plantations. The wave of migration continued in the 19th century as well due to Mao Zedong's communist regime and the First World War. Generations have been living here for almost 230 years and gradually started working mainly in the tanning industry and later opened restaurants and food joints serving Chinese cuisines in a locality called Tangra in East Kolkata. What's heart breaking is that initially around 20,000 Indo-Chinese people lived here and the number has been reduced to a staggering 2000 at present. According to them, they have bigger pursuits and sell their stuff to move to more prospering economies in the US, Canada, Taiwan and other South-Asian countries. The immigration to other countries got a further boost when Supreme Court decided in 1995 to shift tanneries due to environmental concerns.

Their fluency in Bengali and Chinese cuisines was a rare mix of culture that fascinated me. The celebrations of Chinese New Year in February and the inherit capacity to attract people from all walks of life makes it one of Kolkata's prized possessions which will be very hard to say goodbye to. So, all I want to say is if you have not been here, come try the lemon chicken at Kim Ling's which is the best I've ever had or the Szechuan duck at Beijing's (you will find Sichuan written on the menu) but hurry up, it might not be around for too long!



जश्न-ए-दुश्मनी

स्नेहा कुमारी, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, तृतीय वर्ष

जिंदगी तो जिंदगी है ,
सरहद आर है या पार है
मत मना जश्न-ए-दुश्मनी का ,
दर्द के पर्वत शिखर पर
ये नगाड़े प्रलय की छाव पर
कर रहम उस जिंदगी पर ,
वो भी तो इंसान है
क्या सोचे है, तू खामोशी पर
क्या तू ही न्याय और भगवान है ?

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT Government of Manipur

Geographica '18 has been sponsored by the Department of Social Welfare and Cooperation, Ministry of Manipur.

Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Manipur is one of the most important Department which deals directly with the citizen of Manipur. This department has been established to implement social welfare programmes and services for the upliftment of disadvantaged segments of the population specially Women, Children, disabled persons, old aged and infirmed etc. So, the Welfare Services intended to provide needed care and protection for weaker sections of the community. Objectives of the department include care, protection, welfare, development and rehabilitation of children, women, disabled persons, aged and infirm, delinquent and neglected juveniles, destitute and orphan children, ex-convicts, ex-criminals and persons released on probation.

विश्व पर्यावरण पर अंटार्कटिका की भूमिका

दिव्या, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, प्रथम वर्ष

अंटार्कटिका (या अन्टार्टिका) पृथ्वी का दक्षिणतम महाद्वीप है, जिसमें दक्षिणी ध्रुव अंतर्निहित है। यह दक्षिणी गोलार्द्ध के अंटार्कटिक क्षेत्र और लगभग पूरी तरह से अंटार्कटिक वृत के दक्षिण में स्थित है। यह चारों ओर से दक्षिणी महासागर से घिरा हुआ है। अपने 140 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर (54 लाख वर्ग मील) क्षेत्रफल के साथ यह एशिया, अफ्रीका, उत्तरी अमेरिका और दक्षिणी अमेरिका के बाद, पृथ्वी का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा महाद्वीप है। अंटार्कटिका का 98 प्रतिशत भाग औसतन 1.6 किलोमीटर मोटी बर्फ से ढका हुआ है।

अंटार्कटिका को एक रेगिस्तान माना जाता है, क्योंकि यहाँ का वार्षिक वर्षण केवल 200 मिमी (8 इंच) है और उसमें भी ज्यादातर तटीय क्षेत्रों में ही होता है। पश्चिमी अंटार्कटिका जितना माना गया था उसकी दोगुनी रफ्तार से गर्म हो रहा है। इस जानकारी ने यह चिंता बढ़ा दी है कि सैन फ्रांसिस्को से शंघाई तक सागर में पानी का स्तर और बढ़ेगा, जो जमीन को डुबा देगा। पश्चिमी अंटार्कटिका में इतनी बर्फ है कि अगर कभी सारी पिघल जाए तो समुद्र का जल स्तर 3.3 मीटर बढ़ जाएगा। समुद्री जलस्तर के हिसाब से निचले माने जाने वाले बांग्लादेश से लेकर तुवालु तक के देश के लिए समुद्र में पानी का स्तर बढ़ने का मतलब खतरा है। पिछली सदी में समुद्र का जलस्तर करीब 20 सेंटीमीटर बढ़ा है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र के पर्यावरण जानकारों के पैनल ने अनुमान लगाया है कि अगर ग्रीनलैंड और अंटार्कटिका में बर्फ पिघली तो इस सदी में समुद्र का तल 18-59 सेंटीमीटर तक बढ़ेगा। अंटार्कटिक प्रायद्वीप में किनारों पर मौजूद कई हिमखंड हाल के वर्षों में टूट कर पिघल गए हैं। एक बार यह हिमखंड पिघल जाएं तो उनके पीछे ग्लेशियर भी समुद्र में आ मिलते हैं और फिर पानी का स्तर बढ़ जाता है। पश्चिमी अंटार्कटिका हर साल समुद्र के जलस्तर में 0.3 मिलीमीटर इजाफा कर रहा है। वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि महाद्वीप के समुद्र में बर्फ की चादर का दायरा इस साल रिकार्ड निम्न स्तर पर पहुंच गया है। पर्यटन क्रूज और जहाजों की बढ़ती आवाजा को इसका कारण बताया जा रहा है। अंटार्कटिका क्लाइमेट एंड इकोसिस्टम कोआपरेटिव रिसर्च सेंटर के शोधकर्ता जेन लाइजर ने कहा, ऐसा जाहिर होता है कि अंटार्कटिका में गर्मी और सर्दी के मौसम में समुद्री बर्फ का निम्नतम और अधिकतम दायरा गिरावट के नए रिकार्ड स्तर पर पहुंच गया है। इसमें जलवायु परिवर्तन की भूमिका भी हो सकती है। अंटार्कटिका महाद्वीप की चौथी सबसे बड़ी बर्फ शेल्फ (भू-भाग से स्थायी रूप से जुड़ी हुई अस्थिर बर्फ की परतें) 'लार्सन सी' से लगभग 6200 वर्ग किलोमीटर का एक बड़ा हिमशैल (अस्थिर भू-बर्फ) पिछले दिनों टूटकर अलग हो गया। इसे ग्लोबल वार्मिंग का प्रभाव माना जा रहा है। ग्लोबल वार्मिंग का लंबवत प्रभाव अंटार्कटिका की बर्फ की चादरों पर पड़ता है। इससे पैदा एक छोटी सी दरार धीरे-धीरे चौड़ी होती जाती है और अंततः रिफ्ट का निर्माण होता है जिससे एक बड़ा हिमशैल टूटकर अलग हो जाता है। दुनिया का 90 फीसदी ताजा पानी अंटार्कटिका में ही है और यह प्रायद्वीप जलवायु परिवर्तन की निगरानी के लिए एक सर्वश्रेष्ठ परीक्षण बेड की तरह है। महासागर की सतह के तापमान में वृद्धि ने कई तूफानों की तीव्रता को जन्म दिया है हालांकि उष्णकटिबंधीय तूफानों की संख्या में कोई वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। ब्रिटिश अंटार्कटिका सर्वे में कहा गया है कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग का प्रभाव अंटार्कटिका पर पड़ रहा है। हाल ही में हुई इस मौसम की भयावह ठंड और बर्फबारी के चलते वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि धरती ने कोल्ड मोड में प्रवेश कर लिया है जो आगे चलकर आम तापमान में वैश्विक गिरावट दर्ज करा सकता है और इसका असर आने वाले बीस से तीस वर्ष तक पूरे विश्व को कपकपा देने वाली ठंड से जूझते हुए महसूस करना होगा। वैज्ञानिक इस स्थिति को विश्वव्यापी ठंड की गंभीर प्रवृत्ति की शुरुआत निरूपित कर रहे हैं। तेजी से ठंडी होती जा रही इस दुनिया के वैज्ञानिकों की यह चेतावनी मौसम की रिकॉर्ड तोड़ ठंड या बर्फबारी के संदर्भ में नहीं कही जा रही दरअसल ये भविष्यवाणियां प्रशांत और अटलांटिक महासागरों के जलीय तापमान के प्राकृतिक चक्र के विश्लेषण पर आधारित हैं।

Answers to Crossword 2

Across		Down	
1.	Kanchenjunga	1.	Tanzania
2.	Africa	2.	Vaticancity
3.	Wular	3.	Japan
4.	Indirapoint	4.	Angelfalls
5.	Canada		
6.	Newyork		

HOW DO YOU TAKE A BREAK?

By *Akshita Saini*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

It was a beautiful morning. Surprisingly, I was the first one to wake up that day. Well, I couldn't help myself. I wanted to make the most of every second. I went to every room and woke up everybody, my sister and two of our friends. We left early that day. Except for the way we came from, we knew nothing of the place. It was not a 'tourist-y' place either. It was a place, set up in its raw beauty and untouched by the commercializing community. I felt lucky that we were among the few who chose to visit this beautiful place. This small village is called Muddukul in town of Madikeri, district Kodagu, Karnataka. When all tourists head to Coorg when they visit this district, we decided to head to this tiny village here and found ourselves a beautiful homestay with a river side view.

Around 6 am, we started heading downhill and followed the only road we could see in the vicinity. We made sure to remember the turn that will lead us back. We then decided to wander in tropical enclave of the Western Ghats of Deccan Plateau. Walking through the lush green forest, I watched in awe how rainforests are saturated with diverse and colourful species of flora and fauna. One of the many memorable sights in the forest would be this enchanting white fungi shimmering in the dirt. Another one was a snake's shed skin; we walked a few more steps and spotted another one! It had rained the previous night and the dew settled on the grey scaled skin lying in green glass which made it more beautiful than scary. People actually take it home for good luck. After walking a few more kilometers, we spotted temples worshipping snakes, and we knew the reason why!

I had never seen any river up so close as it was meandering through the forests. Unlike most we have generally seen, there were no plastic packets, no banana leaves or food leftovers around or in it. It was a walk in nature in its truest sense. This forest was the means of income to the local people with its famous coffee and pepper plantations. It is home to Asian Elephant, tiger, leopard, gaur, wild boar and several species of deer along with some 300 types of birds. To say that tropical rainforests are definitely jaw dropping would be an understatement.



We decided to go back when we saw some locals. Kids were waiting in their school uniform with their parents for the school bus to arrive and we could see their colourful houses around with little gardens filled flowers and vegetables. I could smell something delicious cooking from one of the houses. Yes, food! Muddokul has a local dish called Kadumbuttu and Pandi curry. This dish is made of steamed rice balls and pork curry. This was our dinner. After dusk, it started to drizzle again, we sat on our wooden tables and chairs in the balcony with candle lights. We had Kadumbuttu and Pandi curry. The food was a perfect balance of the known and the unknown, the spicy tangy taste of tamarind and pepper on pork which was mixed with plain rice. To put it mildly, the taste was heavenly. The little chill in the air, the warmth of the candle burning and the food with the people I love, what more can anyone ask for?

This summer again, I got the opportunity to perceive the lives lived by a different set of people in their own habitat. The concept of eco-tourism became clearer than ever before. I realised, as I was leaving, that we need to take care of nature not just for us, but for the generations to come. Why deprive them of the beauty we see now!

TREK TO VALLEY OF FLOWERS

By *Trishanti Paul*, B.A(Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

There are a few things which can never be described in words. A few experiences so subtle but so deep that they remain with you forever. Sometimes it is mere coincidence that such experiences come your way by themselves but sometimes you yourself decide to go out of way to have an adventure of a lifetime. I decided to have this adventure by visiting the Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand, India.

In the second week of September 2017, I went to the Valley of flowers trek with nine people. We started this amazing experience from Joshimath. We then headed towards Govind Ghat from where the trek begins. It was a 14 km tedious trek and it took us almost five long hours to reach Ghangaria where the base camp is. The path winds around the river Lakshman Ganga for most of the way. The path does not go uphill all the way, there were short sections that are flat and some even downhill. We completed the stretch gradually trudging for hours and hours with rucksacks weighing 6 to 8 kgs on our backs. The moment we saw rays of light coming straight from the camp area, we heaved a euphoric sigh of relief. It was a glorious moment for all of us. We managed to have some noodles then pitched our tents and slept off peacefully amidst mountains and alpine trees.



Next morning after waking up to such breathtakingly beautiful view, we were all set to leave for the valley. It was another 6 km trek from Ghangaria. It was a walk amongst the floating clouds. With the valley blooming with a plethora of colours on one side, the snow clad mountains on the other and the alluring river dividing them, the scenery is truly picture perfect. The flowers were not blooming fully during that time because the flowering season is usually from July to August when the entire park attains its full bloom. This lush region is home to some rare and endangered plant and animal species. The experience was impeccable and it created memories of a lifetime.

Next day, we decided to leave for Badrinath. After trekking downhill for three hours from Ghangaria to Govindghat, we caught a taxi to Badrinath. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple and town form one of the Char Dham and Chota Char Dham pilgrimage sites. From Badrinath we headed towards Mana which is just 3km from Badrinath town. Mana is a last Indian village from the border of India and Tibet/China in the Himalayas. The village is on the banks of the river Saraswati surrounded by hills on all sides.

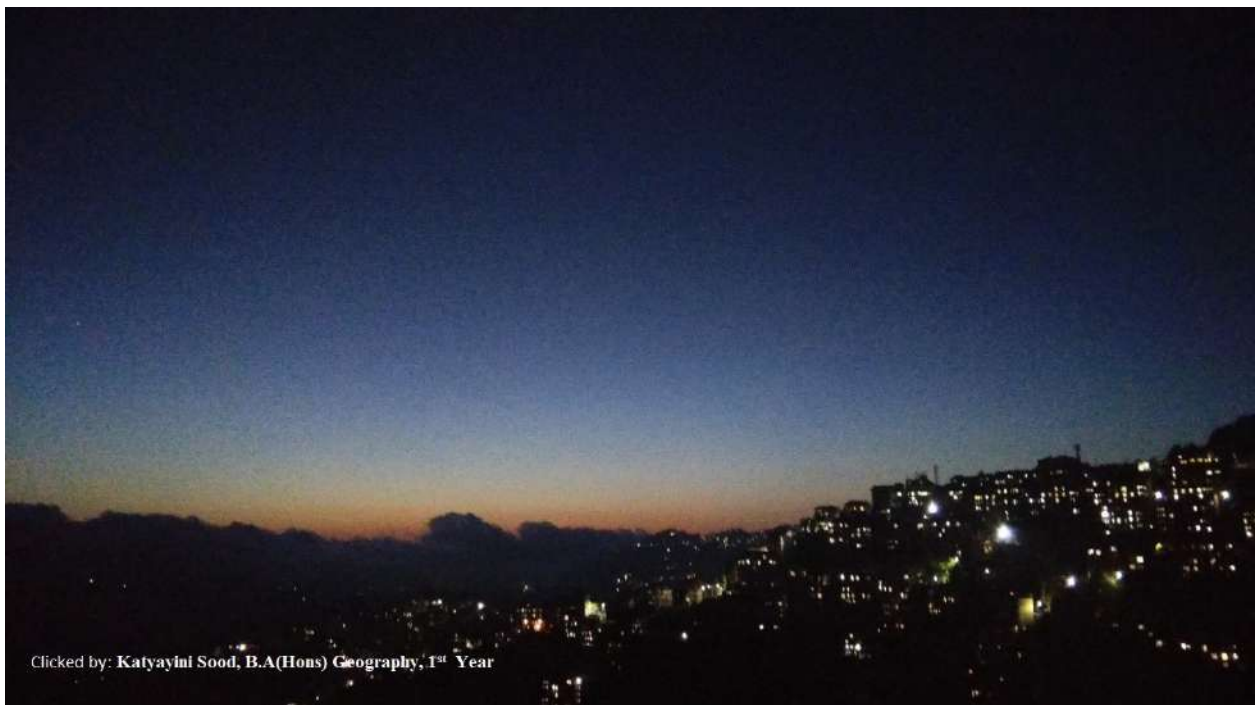
It was one of the most soul warming experiences of my life. The trek was picturesque and we witnessed a glimpse of the valley and the glorious mountains. The entire stretch was replete with jaw dropping views, this place is one that I will remember all my lifetime. You'll get a feeling of salvation, a feeling cannot be described in words. It can only be experienced!

TRIP TO HIMACHAL PRADESH

by *Katyayini Sood*, B.A(Hons) Geography, 1st Year

I planned to rediscover Himachal Pradesh in 2015. Himachal Pradesh isn't just restricted to Kullu, Manali or Shimla. It has many places which are yet to be explored by tourists as well as mass media. This might just be a blessing, enjoying the serene beauty far away from the tourist hustle bustle. The unexplored beauty that I chose to visit was Chamba. The state is often called a God's land or 'Dev Bhumi'. I planned to go to the Chamba Kailash, also known as Mani Mahesh, which has been the centre of many mythological stories. Chamba is located at the confluence of river Ravi and Sal. The city shows fluvial topography as the Ravi and Sal are still in their youth stage and the formation of river valleys is a common occurrence. The flow of the rivers is naturally intense. We visited temples like Laxmi Narayan and Khajji Nag temple. The Laxmi Narayan temple is believed to be made by the Pandavas during their Agyatvasa. A folk dance called Natti was going on in the temple courtyard by the local men and women in their traditional jewellery and clothes. It was truly mesmerizing.

The famous Khajji Nag temple is situated on the famous Chaugan which means a plain flat land in the valley. The climb to this temple isn't just a trek; it is a pilgrimage, with hundreds of people climbing uphill in the one week it remains open. It starts from a place called Bharmor, the next stop is Hudsar which is 18 km away. The next stop is a place called Dhancho which is famous for the inhabiting Gaddi tribe. This region also has a Gauri Kund which is a place where only females are allowed to bathe. The accomodations usually consists of tents with 5 people generally huddled in a single tent because of the temperatures being low. Any place that is unexplored or less frequented by tourists is an adventure in itself. With mainstream tourist attractions becoming crowded and heavily polluted because of tourists flocking in large numbers, people are now shifting towards these unexplored places for their getaways. Let us strive towards keeping these places beautiful and clean for ourselves as well as for nature.



Clicked by: *Katyayini Sood*, B.A(Hons) Geography, 1st Year

हिंदी है धड़कन हिंदुस्तान की विनिता कुमारी, बी.ए (आ) भूगोल, द्वितीय वर्ष

आज देश के विभिन्न शिक्षण संस्थानों, ऑफिसों, नौकरी पेशा लोगों पर अंग्रेजी हावी होती जा रहे हैं। लेकिन करीब 77 प्रतिशत भारतीयों में हिंदी अभी भी जनसंपर्क की महत्वपूर्ण भाषा बनी हुई है। आज हम गर्व से कह सकते हैं कि हिंदी न केवल हिंदुस्तान की भाषा है अपितु यह विश्व की भाषाओं में अपना महत्वपूर्ण स्थान भी रखती है। हिंदी हिंदुस्तान की धड़कन है। आने वाले समय में भले ही अंग्रेजियत का परचम हो लेकिन हिंदी बहुत ही तेजी से अभी भी अपना अस्तित्व बनाए रखने में सफल रही है।

हिंदी की लिपि देवनागरी है। हिंदी में काफी शब्द संस्कृत, अंग्रेजी, उर्दू, फारसी से भी आए हैं। हिंदी का एक अलग ही ध्वनि शास्त्र भी है। किस शब्द का उच्चारण किस प्रकार से किया जाना चाहिए, किस शब्द को मुंह के किस भाग से बोलना चाहिए, इसका भाषा बोध हिंदी में सर्वाधिक है। हिंदी में सभी अक्षरों का उच्चारण घोष स्पष्टतः सुनाई देता है। हिंदी का शब्दकोश बहुत ही विस्तृत है। हिंदी व्याकरण को समझना भी सरल कार्य नहीं है। हिंदी बहुत ही तेजी से विश्व पटल पर छा रही है। विदेशी लोगों की भी हिंदी को सीखने की रुचि बढ़ रही है। आज हम हिंदुस्तान में किसी भी कोने में चले जाएँ, आज भाषा हमारे लिए अवरोध नहीं बनती हैं। आज हम गर्व से कह सकते हैं कि हिंदी सिर्फ हिंदुस्तान की ही भाषा नहीं बल्कि विश्व की अन्य भाषाओं में भी एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखती है।

हिंदी आज विज्ञापनों की भाषा बन चुकी है। हिंदी जन-जन की भाषा के रूप में प्रयुक्त हो इसके लिए हिंदी में बदलाव के लिए सभी खिड़की दरवाजे खुले रखे हैं। बॉलीवुड सिनेमा ने भी हिंदी के विकास में अहम भूमिका निभाई है। सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल ने कहा था कि 'हिंदी का पेट महासागर की तरह विस्तृत है जिसमें सभी भाषाएं समा सकती हैं'। हिंदी भाषा के प्रचार-प्रसार और संवर्धन में साहित्यकारों ने भी विशेष भूमिका निभाई है। हरिवंश राय बच्चन, महावीर प्रसाद द्विवेदी, प्रेमचंद, रामधारी सिंह दिनकर, अज्ञेय, जैनेंद्र कुमार, महादेवी वर्मा, जयशंकर प्रसाद, सुमित्रानंदन पंत और निराला आदि लोगों की हिंदी में रुचि पैदा करने में अहम योगदान दिया है।

भाषा केवल विचारों के आदान प्रदान का माध्यम ही नहीं होती बल्कि यह तो स्वयं में संस्कृति होती है। जब भी सांस्कृतिक परिवर्तन होता है तो भाषा के विकास में भी उतार चढ़ाव आते हैं। भाषा पूरे देश को एक धागे में पिरोए रखती है। भाषा का वजूद बनाए रखना हर नागरिक की जिम्मेदारी है।

बंजारा समाज

शांति, बी.ए (आ) हिंदी, द्वितीय वर्ष

बंजारों के जीवन की कथाये कवियों, संतो, और रसिकों की कविताओं में बराबर मिलती है। बंजारा समाज जीवन भर अपना गुजरा घूमते हुए करता है। यही इनकी परम्परा और पहचान है। भारत एक भिन्न जाती व समुदाय वाला देश है। उसी में बंजारा समाज भी है। इनका इतिहास सदियों पुराना है। देश के वीर योद्धा बंजारे समाज के माने जाते हैं। वर्तमान में भी ये भारत के कई प्रान्तों में निवास करते हैं इनकी संस्कृति और तोर तरीका भिन्न पाया जाता है। इनका अलग होना ही इनको विशेष बनाता है।

महिलाये बालो में धागे पीरोकर चोटी बांधती के, सुहाग की निशानी के रूप में दोहड़ पहनती है। यह समाज सदेव उत्पीडन का शिकार रहा है। किन्तु इतिहास में इन्हें निडर और साहसी माना गया है। इनके प्रशंसाओं के रूप में इनकी प्रेम कहानियाँ, परिश्रम व त्याग का वर्णन मिलता है। आज भी बंजारा समाज स्वतंत्र और उन्मुक्त जीवन का प्रतीक माना जाता है।



The Department of Geography is ever buzzing with the academic and extra curricular activities throughout the year.



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

By *Varnika Srivastava*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

The Department of Geography in the academic session 2017-18 hosted a variety of events and talks which attracted students from many colleges across the city to join us to learn and grow. The string of events started with the welcoming of the Freshers'.

The Department successfully celebrated **World Tourism Day** on 27 September 2017 with several interesting programs. In this spirit, the department presented a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the contribution of tourism to social, cultural, political and economic value in our lives. This day saw many events like documentary screening, quiz, poster making and travel stories. These events had participations from not only the Geography Department, but also from other departments. The documentary screening included *OPEN ROADS* by Sathish Sarkar, *TRAVEL MORE* by Tessa Juliete and several other short films by the UNITED NATIONS. *Safarnama*- the quiz, was based largely on tourist places and cuisines. The poster making competition was centered around the theme *Wander Sustainably or Cultural Tourism*. The Travel Stories and Discussions saw the students sharing their travelogues and stories. This experience sharing was conversational and everyone presented the pictures of visited place. They shared everything from the route to the destination but what made this session special was the fact that everyone looked at their experiences through a geographical perspective. We covered the whole world, from the backwaters of Kerala to the museums of Rome through this interesting story telling session.



FOCUS, The Path Ahead was a series of career guidance sessions conducted by the Students' Union throughout the odd semester. This initiative was a new one started this year which saw various alumni from the college coming to guide the students graduating from the current batch regarding career opportunities and scopes in their respective field and about how to go along with admission processes and preparations.

The **first session** was conducted by Ms. Divyakshi Jain, Batch of 2017, who is currently pursuing M.Sc. Development Studies from London School of Economics. She explained in detail about how to go on with admission processes abroad. Her session was the first of four and was well received. It was not only attended by many students, but also received a good feedback as it answered many questions the students had along with providing a detailed account of the admission processes.

The **second session** was conducted by Ms. Pratiksha Singh, Batch of 2017, who is currently doing M.A in Geography from the Delhi School of Economics. This session basically focused on the preparation strategies for the Post Graduate entrance exam of Delhi School of Economics and Jawahar Lal Nehru University. Ms. Pratiksha had cleared both the entrances, and hence knew exactly how to give tips. She started with an encouraging speech which gave the details of major topics of JNU PG entrance exam, which included economic geography, geomorphology, remote sensing etc. She also gave the format for the exam which is extremely necessary to know for good preparation along with giving details about the questions asked in the entrance of Delhi School of Economics, its curriculum etc.

STUDENT UNION
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

FOCUS

THE PATH AHEAD
CAREER LECTURE SERIES

Department of Geography is conducting a discussion session with Divyakshi Jain, Miranda House, Geography Student (Batch of 2017) who is going to attend MSc Development Studies from London School of Economics, 2017-2018. She will talk about the **CAREER OPTIONS ABROAD** and help students understand the admission procedure in detail.

DATE: 11th September 2017 | Monday
VENUE: Room No. 209 Department of Geography
TIME: 3pm

OPEN FOR GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS OF MIRANDA HOUSE

11TH SEPTEMBER 2017
CAREER LECTURE SERIES

STUDENT UNION
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

FOCUS

THE PATH AHEAD
CAREER LECTURE SERIES


Department of Geography is conducting a discussion session with Pratiksha Singh, Miranda House, Geography Student (Batch of 2017) who is pursuing MA in Geography from Delhi School of Economics. She will talk about **PREPARATIONS AND GUIDELINES** to follow when applying in India and also help students understand the admission procedure in detail.

DATE: 25th September 2017 | Monday
VENUE: Room No. 209 Department of Geography
TIME: 3pm

OPEN FOR GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS OF MIRANDA HOUSE

25TH SEPTEMBER 2017
CAREER LECTURE SERIES

The **third session** of FOCUS was conducted by Ms. Garima Kheda, from Batch of 2017. She is currently pursuing M.A Disaster Management from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She gave a detailed account of the pattern of the entrance exam along with explaining about the admission processes and also explaining about the interviews conducted prior to the admissions.



STUDENT UNION
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

FOCUS


THE PATH AHEAD

CAREER LECTURE SERIES

Department of Geography is conducting a discussion session with Garima Kheda, Miranda House Student (Batch of 2017) who is pursuing MA in Disaster Management from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). She will talk about **PREPARATIONS AND GUIDELINES** to follow when applying to TISS and also help students understand the admission procedure in detail.


DATE : 6th November 2017 | MONDAY
VENUE: Room No. 209
TIME : 3pm

OPEN FOR GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS OF MIRANDA HOUSE



COURSE OF CHOICE SHOULD BE YOUR PRIORITY SO "PREPARE ACCORDINGLY"

6TH NOVEMBER 2017
CAREER LECTURE SERIES



STUDENT UNION
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

FOCUS

THE PATH AHEAD

CAREER LECTURE SERIES

Department of Geography is conducting a discussion session with Aparna Aparajita Dash, Miranda House, Geography Student (Batch of 2017) who is pursuing MA/Msc in Population Studies from International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS). She will talk about **PREPARATIONS AND GUIDELINES** to follow when applying to IIPS and also help students understand the admission procedure in detail.

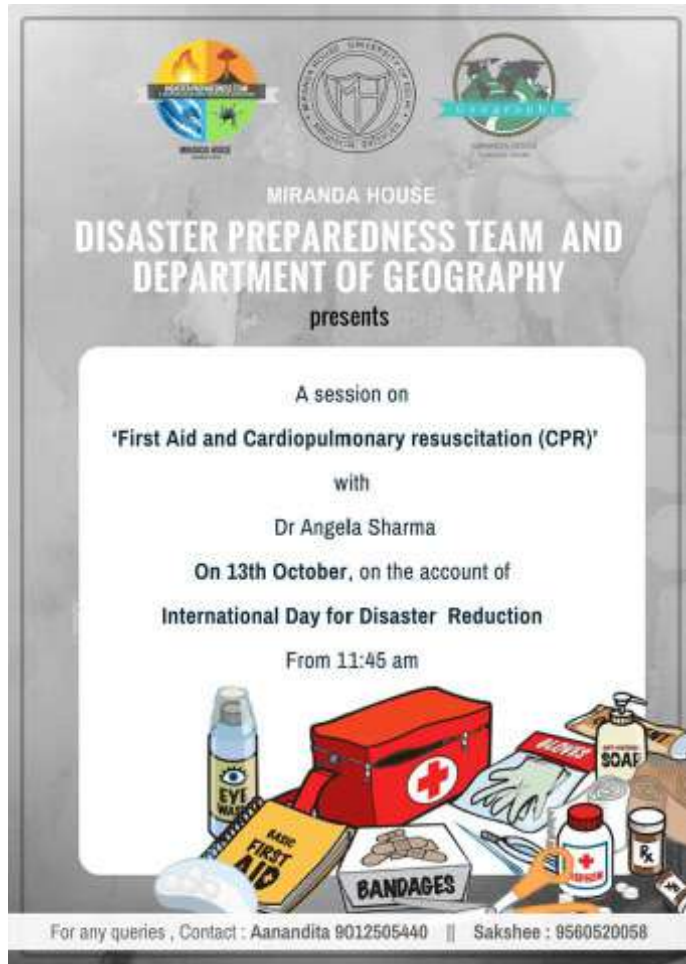
DATE : 13th November 2017 | MONDAY
VENUE: Room No. 209
TIME : 3pm

OPEN FOR GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS OF MIRANDA HOUSE

13TH NOVEMBER 2017
CAREER LECTURE SERIES

The **final session** of FOCUS was conducted by Ms. Aparna Aparajita, one of our alumni who is currently pursuing MA/MSc in Population Studies from International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS). She cleared the doubts and helped students understand the admission process in detail.

Department of Geography in collaboration with Disaster Preparedness Team of Miranda House organised a session on **First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** with Dr. Angela Sharma and a Memory Training Session with Anant Kasibatla on 13 October 2017, on the account of International Day for Disaster Reduction.



On **3 November 2017**, a session was held with Mr. Shubham Mishra, Freelance GIS Consultant and Urban planner. He talked about his life as a student in School of Planning and Architecture and his experiences now as a professional. He also helped students aspiring to study urban planning with a holistic understanding of his field. His talk was a funny and intriguing comparison of the old vs the new in the backdrop of the beautiful monuments and streets of Delhi.

He talked about his various experiences as a student and as a planner where he explained how he became a part of the many projects he is working on currently. He talked about having an inclusive approach to our everyday lives with each ounce of knowledge helping us in some way or the other.



MIRANDA HOUSE | DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



INVITES YOU ALL TO
AN INTERACTIVE TALK SESSION ON

by
Shubham Mishra, a GIS Consultant & Urban Planner

DATE : 3rd November 2017 | TIME : 10 AM | VENUE : ROOM 209




Department of Geography along with Intach Heritage Walks organised a walk on 11 November 2017, in Shah Jahan's very own capital which he designed with his favourite daughter Jahanara. Ms. Aradhana Sinha and Mr. Ashwin Tahiliani, our walk leaders took us through a journey of the urban development of Chandni Chowk. From institutions representing almost all major religions to restaurants offering various cuisines and historical monuments and artefacts standing witness to the glories and tragedies occurred here, the two hour walk opened up a whole other side to this place otherwise popular as a shopping centre. The charm of Chandni Chowk magically weaved into the students in the early Saturday morning as Shah Jahan's legend lives on. The early morning walk showed a completely different side of Chandni Chowk, one that wasn't marked with the overcrowding of people and vehicles but was calm and peaceful with enough space to explore the narrow winding streets and lanes in depth and looking at the urban landscape from a geographical perspective rather than having the perspective of a tourist or a shopper.



The first event of 2018 was a talk on **The New Human Condition: Transnational Issues in an age of Resilience** conducted on 5 January 2018. The talk was conducted by Dimple. S. Bath who is a Senior Research Fellow at the Transnational Law Institute, Kings College, London. The talk touched a variety of topics like the role of Women in the Business/Corporate World today along with talking about some of the most topical Subjects of the Future such as Corporate Social Responsibility, Information Technology, Blockchain, Bitcoin and Artificial Intelligence among many others.

This talk also provided students with an opportunity to be acquainted with new fields in the areas of Law, Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy along with subjects such as Gender Inequality, Disaster Capitalism, Corporate Warfare, Supply Chains and other topics and encouraged them to know more about possible careers and work within these areas. This talk was quite interactive and well attended.



MIRANDA HOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
PRESENTS

A TALK ON **"THE NEW HUMAN CONDITION: TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES IN AN AGE OF RESILIENCE"**

BY **Dimple S Bath,**
Senior Research Fellow at
the Transnational Law Institute,
Kings College, London.

JANUARY 5, 2018

11 AM • FRIDAY
SEMINAR HALL, MIRANDA HOUSE

For more details contact: Sakshita : 9841682058 | Manisha : 98487 12252



The Department conducted a workshop on 25 January 2018 **GIS based Earthquake and Landslide Zonation** by Dr. Vijendra Pandey who is a post-doctoral research associate in a DST-SPLICE project on ‘Himalayan Cyrosphere: Science and Society’ at CSDR, JNU. This seminar was largely based on Dr. Pandey’s research work in Tipri Guttu Highway corridor along with an interactive session on methodology of landslide zonation.



We also conducted a seminar on ‘**Second World War and Contemporary Geopolitics**’ on 8 February 2018 by Mr. Anshul Verma who is a scholar at Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University.

Mr. Anshul had taken upon himself the herculean task of analysing the causes and events of the Second World war that lasted for six years in a two hour enthralling session organised by Department of Geography, Miranda House on the 8th of February, 2018. From the Treaty of Versailles to Hitler's rise in power to mass killings of Jews to Pearl Harbour and the unfortunate bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he took us through a myriad of images that helped us fathom the true horrors and trepidations behind the speeches and boundless ambitions of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini or Churchill, after all history is a story of processes not just events.

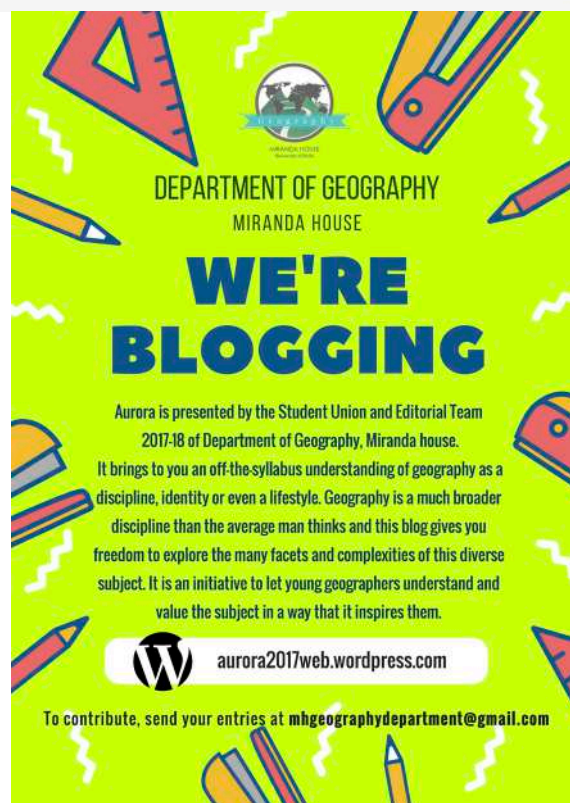
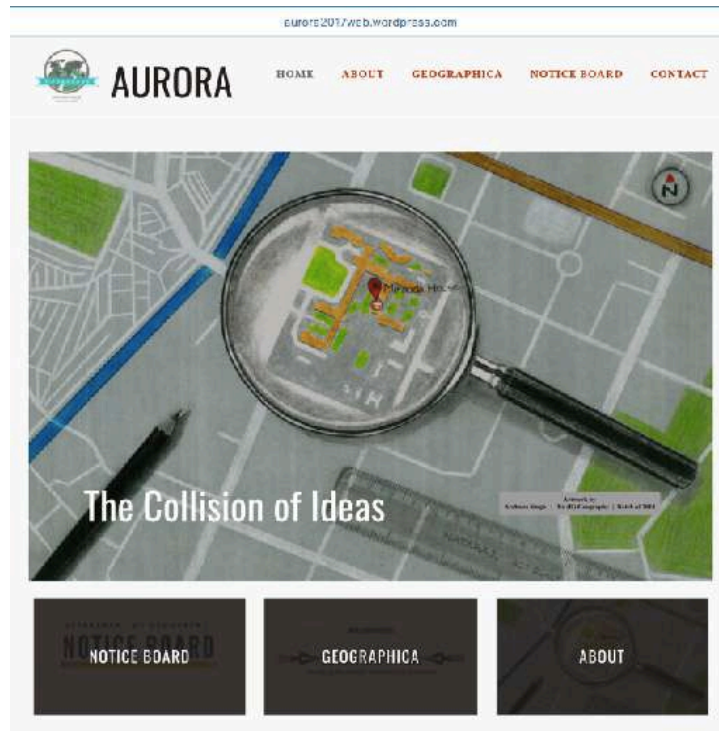


The Department of Geography successfully completed yet another edition of its annual fest Globe on 26 February 2018. **Globe'18** included an interactive session with Dr. S. Sreekesh, from JNU on the topic Interlinking of Rivers: Environment and Development Dynamics .This day also saw many interesting competitions like Geografia- The Quiz, along with JAM, Pictionary and Poster Making along with the putting up of stalls of handmade decoration items, books, food and trinkets by the students of the Department itself.



AND WE STARTED BLOGGING TOO!!

The official blog of Department of Geography, AURORA- THE COLLISION OF IDEAS was started to bring an off-the-syllabus understanding of geography as a discipline, identity and even a lifestyle. This blog gives everyone the opportunity to explore the many facets and complexities of geography.



FIELD REPORTS

GUJARAT: A PLACE OF WONDERS

By Suvasree Chakravarty, B.A (Hons) Geography, 2nd Year

The field trip of B.A. (Hons) Geography 2nd year was organized to gain some insights into the development model of Gujarat with special focus on Ahmedabad and Somnath. The journey in itself gave various useful insights. The first day in Ahmedabad was spent in conducting a market survey. The surveys were important to understand what people think and how they perceive development. The Sabarmati Ashram was an important milestone in our trip as not only was it a beautiful experience but also told us the life story of Mahatma Gandhi. The next visit was to CEPT University where the lectures arranged were important to develop our understanding about how the city has evolved and how it has thrived, the recent problems of urban poor and also an important part of the life in Ahmedabad ie the BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System). We also had the honor of meeting the Hon'ble governor of Gujarat, Shri Om Prakash Kohli who told us how the pursuit of material development may be significant to sustain an economy but should not occur by forgoing the cultural aspects of a society. The next stop to Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University further deepened our understanding of sustainable development. This marked the end of our journey to Ahmedabad.



The next day our journey to Somnath started and one could clearly see the differences as one moved away from Ahmedabad with respect to economic activity, settlement pattern, soil, vegetation etc. The visit to Somnath temple put us in a trance. The light and sound show sucked us into its world as we saw the temple tell its own story of destruction and reconstruction. We also did a survey in the vicinity of Somnath temple that enabled us to understand how people perceive the presence of an important pilgrimage center into their everyday lives. With this, our stay in Somnath came to an end and a quick detour to Diu was all the refreshment we needed to end this beautiful journey. From this trip, we learnt many things but one thing that will probably remain with me was that the people were happy with their simple way of life. From auto rickshaw drivers to doctors, all were satisfied. People always tend to state their problems without appreciating the things they have but these people they were aware of the things that they had and appreciated them. When one talks about development, we often tend to forget that material development can easily be achieved but happiness can be very difficult to find. The trip was overall an important eye-opener leaving us praising the beauty of Gujarat, appreciating the development it has achieved and also pondering on questions regarding the problems it faces.

FIELD TRIP TO PANCHESHWAR DAM REGION

By *Aanandita Sikka*, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year

The third year students of BA (Hons) Geography visited parts of Pithoragarh and Champawat districts of Uttarakhand as a part of their practical paper on Disaster Management. The topic of concentration for this trip were landslides and earthquakes. The students stayed in Champawat for two days and in Pithoragarh for one day. During their field survey, students had conversations with people from rural areas as well as people from urban areas. One first day of the survey, we surveyed in Champawat district and interacted with the villagers regarding their awareness and preparedness for disasters. Students keenly listened to their perspectives about disasters and were quite surprised by the way residents of the village had become habitual to mild tremors of earthquakes and frequent landslides. In the evening, students visited a temple in Champawat itself, which was believed to be established by the Pandavas. The temple has had great significance for the socio economic and cultural aspects of the Champawat region. The second day, we all left for Pancheshwar, saw the confluence of five rivers and the site for the Pancheshwar Dam Multi project. We again surveyed people living in the nearby areas and asked them about their opinions of the dam and its long term implications on the intensity of disasters in the already disaster prone state of Uttarakhand. An important part of the survey was to assess the damage caused by earthquake and landslide on various aspects of their livelihood, such their cattle, agriculture fields etc.



We all packed our bags and bid adieu to Champawat on the third day and encountered a landslide, on our way to Pithoragarh. It had rained heavily the day before and we had to wait for about an hour in the morning for the landslide to be cleared from the road. In Pithoragarh, unlike Champawat, students surveyed in an urban centre. It was extremely interesting to note the subtle differences in the narratives of the people of the rural areas and the urban areas. In Pithoragarh, we also visited a fort and a temple to understand the socio-cultural setting of Pithoragarh in a more comprehensive manner. In Pithoragarh, students got to know about various activities of the State Disaster Management Authority and an NGO working for the cause of Disaster awareness and Preparedness. The trip was a memorable experience for all the students, not only did they learn about various disasters and their impact in the study area, they also learned about the difficulties of surviving in difficult terrain like in the study area.

PHOTO STORIES

This rock piece, called “First Impressions” is located at the end of Playfair street, on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour. There are three sides to the sculpture and each has a figure carved on it. Each side represents a group of people - the convicts, the settlers and the soldiers, that helped establish Sydney. It was commissioned by Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority in 1979.

By **Krati Morandani**, B.Sc (Hons) Mathematics, 3rd year



Nag Tibba at 3,022 metres, is the highest peak in the lesser Himalayan region of Uttarakhand state (Garhwal Division), and lends its name to the 'Nag Tibba Range'. It is situated 16 km away from Landour cantonment, and around 57 km from Mussoorie in Tehri Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.

By **Yukta Ravi**, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year



Rajaji National Park is named after the Late Dr Raja Gopalachari. It is located in the Shiwaliks, foothills of the Himalayas. River Ganga flows through it for a distance of 24 kilometers, there are innumerable streams and wild brooks making it rich and diverse.

By **Akshita Saini**, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year



Gyeongbokgung Palace, built in 1395, stands strong today as one of the most important historical sites of South Korea. The Palace served as an important seat of power during the reign of the Joseon dynasty until it was demolished during the Japanese occupation.

By **Hoideikim Hangshing**, B.A (Hons) Geography, 3rd Year



This picture was clicked at the Radhanagar Beach on the Havelock Island, Andaman Archipelago. Havelock Island is the largest of the islands that comprise a chain of islands to the east of Great Andaman in the Andaman Islands.

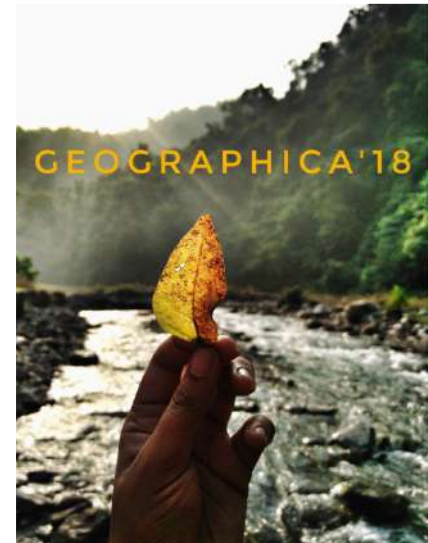
By **Dr. Praveen Mishra**, Cartographer, Department of Geography, Miranda House



TOP 5 MAGAZINE COVER ENTRIES



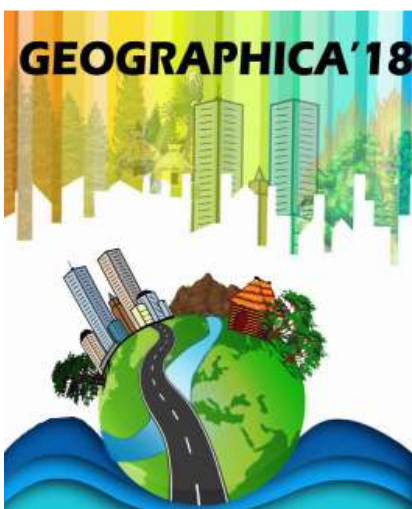
*By Yukta Ravi,
B.A(Hons) Geography,
Third Year*



*By Akshita Saini, B.A
(Hons) Geography,
Third Year*



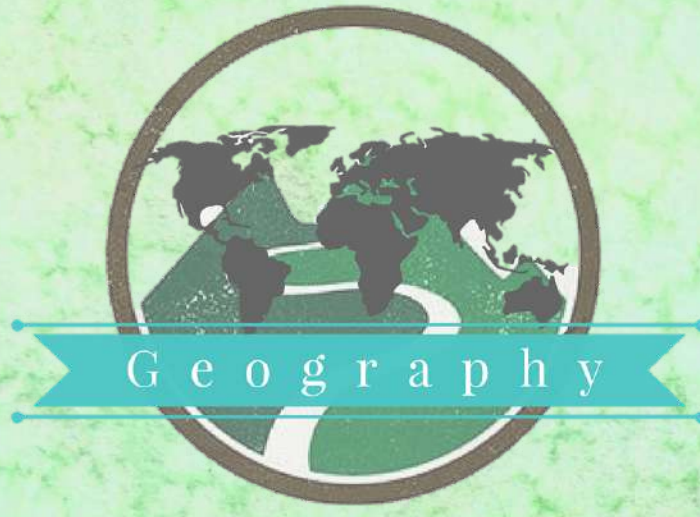
*By Vinita Kumari,
B.A(Hons) Geography,
Second Year*



*By Mansi Khatri,
B.A(Hons) Geography,
First Year*



*By Nikita Singh,
B.A(Hons) Geography,
First Year*



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