

Report

34th NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOMORPHOLOGIST (IGI)

November 2–4, 2022

DEPARTMENT of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune had organised 34th National Conference of the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) from 2nd to 4th November 2022. The theme of the conference was ‘Geomorphology, Natural Hazards and Environment’. The conference was held at the Department of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

Department of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune was established in 1950. It is one of the few leading departments in India with strong Physical as well as Human Geography working groups. The department has received special grants from ISRO, ICSSR and UGC and is also recognised as a FIST-sponsored department by DST, New Delhi.

The Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) is the national platform exclusively dedicated to research and development in the field of geomorphology in India. The idea of forming the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) was seeded at the International Conference of Geomorphology and Environment held at the University of Allahabad in 1987. Now Affiliated with the International Association of Geomorphologists, the primary objectives of the IGI are: to bring all Indian earth scientists dealing with geomorphology and allied disciplines on a common platform; to hold annual conferences in different parts of the country; to publish a research journal; to encourage young scholars in doing research in geomorphology, and to give emphasis on researches related to human society and its welfare, viz. environmental hazards, and their management on different spatial and temporal scales.

The 34th National Conference of the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr Sunil Kumar De, President, International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG) and Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune Prof. Karbhari V.



Kale. The Convener and Head of the Geography Department, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune Prof. Sudhakar D. Pardeshi briefly introduced the national conference and told about themes and sub-themes.

For the conference, there was a total of 260 registrations received from different states of the country out of which 185 research scholars, eminent professors and academicians actually participated in the conference.

All these participants have come from far and wide, from different parts of the country, mostly from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Maharashtra to attend this conference.

Out of 185 present participants, a total of 129 abstracts were received from the 168 participants and 17 participated as attendees for the Young Geomorphologist competition.

To organise this conference the Department of Geography, SPPU received partial financial funding support from DST–SERB, ICSSR and CSIR.

The highlights of this conference are as under:–

On day one, i.e. 2nd November 2022 Prof. S. R. Basu Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Satish J. Sangode, Professor and Head, Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

It was followed by a special lecture delivered by Dr Neetu S., Principal Scientist, CSIR–National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. On the topic of ‘Ocean–atmosphere coupling under tropical cyclones’.

There were two Plenary Sessions arranged during the conference. In the First Plenary Session on 3rd November 2022 Dr Arun Saraf, Professor, IIT Roorkee chaired the First Plenary Session and the speakers were Dr Milap Sharma, Professor,

Centre for the Study of Regional Development School of Social Sciences JNU, New Delhi, and Dr Lakshminarayan Satpati, Professor and Director, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. Dr Milap Chand Sharma delivered a lecture on ‘Beauty and Beast of Himalaya: Landscape, Environment and Disasters’ and Dr Lakshminarayan Satpati delivered a lecture on ‘Mitigation and Adaptation–Revisiting the Strategies to Cope up with the Environmental Hazards of the Capitalocene’.

The Second Plenary Session was arranged on the 3rd day, i.e. 4th November 2022 and Prof. Sunando Bandyopadhyay was the chair of this session. One of the speakers was Dr Arun Saraf, Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, who spoke on ‘Rishi Ganga, Uttarakhand, India Coalescent Natural Disaster: A Geoinformatics Perspective’. the other speaker was Dr N. C. Jana, Professor & Former Head, Department of Geography, The University of Burdwan, Burdwan who delivered a lecture on ‘Environmental Implications of Human Intervention in the lower Damodar Basin, West Bengal’. The last speaker of the session was Dr Anandakumar Karipot, Professor and Director, School of Earth Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, who spoke on ‘Significance of geomorphological inputs for improved quantification of terrestrial biosphere carbon fluxes’.

Another important activity of the IGI Conference was the Young Geomorphologist Competition.

A competition was held among young geomorphologists below the age of 35 years. Every year this competition is organized to encourage young research scholars. Nationwide eight research scholars had enrolled their names for the competition and seven research scholars presented their



research work for the Young Geomorphologist competition. Ms Sayoni Mondal won the Young Geomorphologist Competition of the year 2022 for her research contribution to Geomorphology. The title of her research paper was 'Examining the Mechanical and Hydraulic Properties of Vetiver Grass in providing riverbank stability along an Erosion Prone Sand Mining affected River Reach in Eastern India'.

During the conference, another highlight was the panel discussion. This year, Since India is celebrating its 75 year of Independence, the conference also had an entire session dedicated to the theme '75 Years of Geomorphology in Independent India'. The panellists were Dr Suresh Jog, former Professor, SPPU., Dr Arun Saraf, and Dr Sunil Kumar De, President, International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), Professor, Department of Geography North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) NEHU Campus, Shillong. The panellist discussed how the geomorphological research and studies developed during the last 75 years in India. The session was highly informative and the geomorphological principle 'The present is the key to the past' was proven in this discussion. This session drew particular interest among young scholars in the audience.

Besides these activities, a major part of the conference was technical sessions. Based on the 13 sub-themes mentioned below 16 Technical Sessions were arranged to accommodate all the research papers. For the same following sub-themes were decided:

Geomorphology of Alpine Environment, Geomorphology of Arid and Semi-arid Environment, Geomorphology of

Humid and Sub-Humid Environment, Bio geomorphology, Geohazards and Management, Anthropogeomorphology, Urban Geomorphology, Climate Change and Geomorphology, Geomorphosites and Geotourism, Geomorphological Mapping, Digital Geomorphology, Applied Geomorphology, Geomorphic Impact Assessment, and other topics relevant to the theme of the conference were Fluvial Geomorphology, Geomorphic Impact Assessment.

Based on the subthemes 100 research papers were presented. These technical sessions were Chaired and Co-chaired by Professors and Associate Professors of different established institutions.

During the conference on 3rd November 2022 at 7: 00 pm, a cultural programme was organized for all the delegates. The theme of the cultural programme was 'India–Unity in Cultural Diversity' the theme was specially chosen as the whole nation is celebrating 75 Years of Independence.

On 4th November 2022 at 5: 00 pm Valedictory Function was held in Sant Namdeo Hall, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. Prof. S.D. Dhole, Director, IQAC, SPPU was the Chief Guest. Overall the conference was academically fruitful and lead to deliberations among the scholars. It was a grand success.

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