

Geography in Delhi - Research Themes and Perspectives

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Published by Manisha Publications, New Delhi 2005, pp 241, Price Rs. 251A

Geography in Delhi is the third volume in the monograph series brought out by the Association for Geographical Studies. Started in 1979, by the faculty of geography, University of Delhi, the Association showcases the academic pursuits of geographers - largely from Delhi University and its affiliated colleges. These occasional numbers are valuable reference points for young geographers and research students, - for keeping them in touch with the emerging/ongoing research trends in the discipline.

The 19 articles in the monograph represent articles from various branches of geography. There are papers related to geomorphology, environmental issues, levels of urbanization, rural settlements, location of industrial plants, including electoral geography and socio-economic characteristics of our North-East neighbour-Bhutan.

The first article by Baleshwar Thakur, the editor of the monograph, is biographical in nature, tracing the forty year history of evolution and development of geography at Delhi University and its growth in the affiliated colleges. It is indeed a trip memory lane, a meticulous documentation of the contributions of the fifteen chairpersons and the faculty, whose dedicated efforts have been instrumental in raising the university department to its present level of eminence in the country.

The major milestones, right from the formative phase, teething years, take off, expansion and consolidation stage, challenges and tasks ahead, all have been skillfully interwoven to bring out the rich tapestry of research undertaken by geographers in the National Capital Region. The Delhi University department has been fortunate in having stalwarts like V.L.S Prakasa Rao, R. Ramchandran, R.P. Misra and many others whose researches have not only helped train but also motivate and inspire countless young geographers to undertake serious research, to further the cause of Indian geography.

All the articles in the monograph, irrespective of the themes dealt with, are well presented. They focus on problem oriented topics, are systematically researched and the conclusions arrived at are clearly stated. The language is simple and mercifully free of errors - a treat to the reader. The credit for this must surely go to the editor for painstakingly going through the original manuscripts.

A must-read monograph, strongly recommended to all young geographers and research students. Priced at Rs. 251/- it is not only affordable but also value for money.

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