

Editorial

2006 marks the 28th year of publication of the Transactions. Though the journal, all along has striven to portray the changing face of the discipline, we have yet to receive contributions on the new world order – post globalization. Cheap, ubiquitous communications have flattened the world and obliterated all impediments to international competition. Geographers can probe into the world which has got too small for humans and their political systems to adjust. The impact of convergence technology and events that allowed India and China to become part of the global supply chain for services and manufacturing, creating explosion of wealth in the middle classes of the world's two biggest nations, giving them huge new stake in the success of globalization must receive the geographer's attention.

In this issue, a variety of concerns have been aired; be it the scientific nature of geography, reflecting our eternal concern to define our discipline or the traditional underground water network – the Qanat, which has made possible the earliest civilizations to flourish and bloom in the arid Iranian plateau.

Our callous attitude towards the large scale encroachments on public land in the peri-urban space of the National Capital Region of Delhi, provides an insight into how the rich and famous can subvert the law of the land to build havens of leisure, duping the government and dispossessing the villagers of their valuable land – turning many of them into environmental refugees, has also received attention.

The havoc wrought by large scale unplanned urbanization in the metros, endangering thousand of lives and causing immense economic losses has been discussed in the article on the recent floods in suburban Mumbai.

Water crisis and scarcity due to indiscriminate withdrawal of ground water and its attendant problems are reflected in the study of Bankura district of Bengal. Changes in Agricultural Practices in Punjab and Rainfall Patterns in Haryana deal with issues confronting these states.

Among the books reviewed, particular mention must be made of “ Springs of Life – India's Water Resources” – visually delightful, the book is a narration of the 25,000 km. journey the authors undertook across the country, gathering views and perceptions of the people they interacted with.

The other book, “Geography in Delhi” is a bouquet of papers by geographers from the NCR, a laudable effort of the faculty of Geography, Delhi University. The last book in the review section is in honour of Prof. H.S. Sharma – a collection of 29 papers, reflecting the contemporary research trends in Geomorphology.

I close on an optimistic note that in the future we receive articles reflecting this flattening of the globe which happened at the dawn of the 21st century.

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