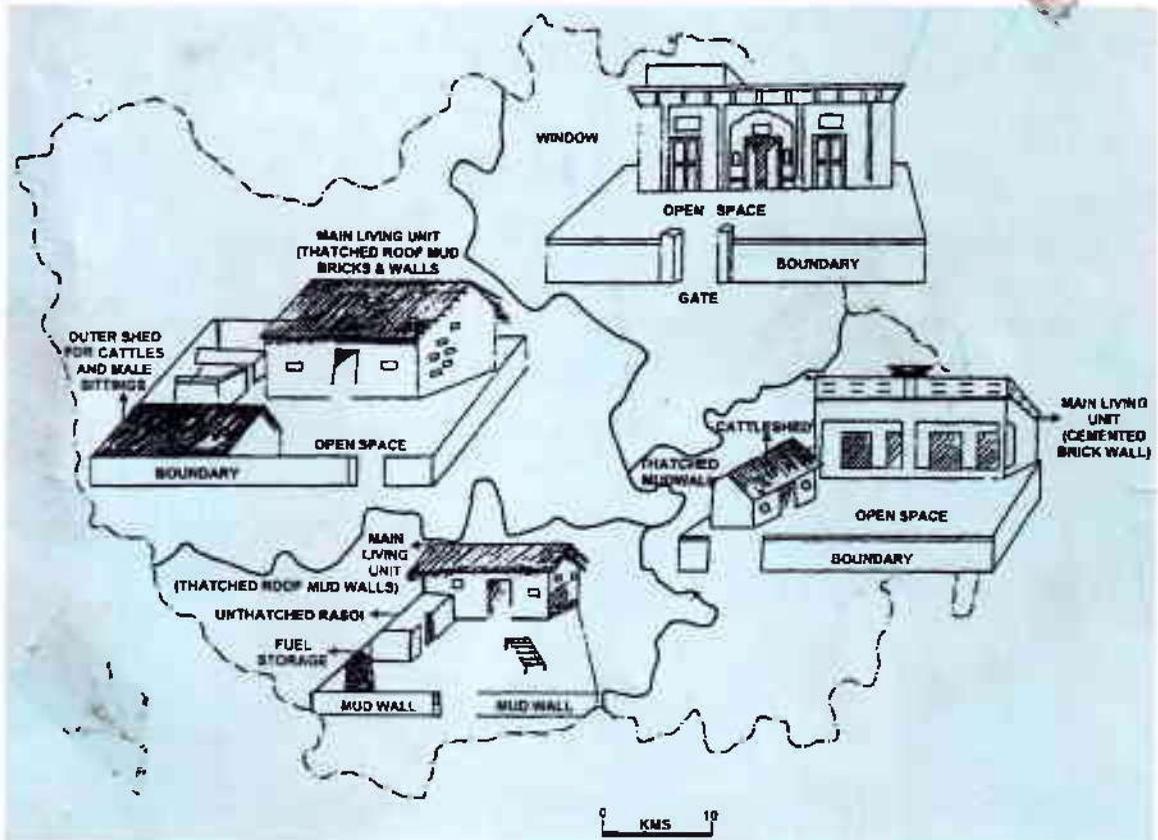


Transactions

Institute of Indian Geographers



Suresh R. Jy.

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Information for Authors

Transactions, a journal of the Institute of Indian Geographers, is published twice a year in January and July. The editor invites original articles that will contribute to advances and debates in all the sub-disciplines of Geography.

Manuscripts should be submitted to any one of the following,

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1. Mosher, S.W. (1983): *Broken Earth: The Rural Chinese*. New York: Free Press
2. Smita, K.G. (1959): Standards for Grading Texture of Erosional Topography. *Amer.Jour, Sci.* Vol. 248, pp. 655-668.

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Editorial

We look at the last two years (2001-2002) with a deep sense of loss. Several distinguished Indian geographers who were instrumental in setting up some major university departments in the country were gone. This was the first generation of geographers who were trained abroad and returned home to pioneer teaching and research in geography at the post-graduate level, after the 1950s. It is due to their untiring zeal and dedication that geography got a head start and gained a secure foothold in the university departments.

In professor R.L. Singh's passing, the Banaras school lost an eminent scholar who had firmly established his reputation as a leading settlement geographer in India. One of our most prolific writers, Dr. Singh guided and produced a large number of studies on rural and urban settlements. He will be remembered by his colleagues and students as the *Pitamah* (father) of settlement geography at Banaras – popularising and giving new direction to the study of settlements in the pre-quantitative revolution phase in India.

Professor Gananathan was another stalwart who founded the department of geography at the university of Pune, in 1950, on his return from Syracuse, U.S.A. His association with eminent geographers like G.B. Cressey, Preston E. James and R.E. Dickinson, whilst at Syracuse, was to help Gananathan, when he first introduced teaching, and later encouraged research in Economic and Urban geography, at the Pune University department.

Professor V.A. Janaki, another senior geographer also passed away in February 2002. She was the founder of the geography department at the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara. After her training at Oxford, she was invited by the Vice-Chancellor to establish the geography department, which she steered for 27 long years and developed it to be counted among the major departments of geogra-

phy in western India. Her contribution to historical and political geography deserves special mention.

The other two geographers, Dr. S.B. Sawant and Dr. K. Ramamurthy, both were teachers of long standing at the university of Pune. Ramamurthy was a close associate of Prof. Gananathan, having joined the department in 1954, shortly after it was established. Dr. Sawant, formerly a student in the department had a long tenure of 33 years, before his untimely death on 1st March 2002. It is unfortunate for the geography department at Pune to lose three of the early pillars who shouldered much responsibility in building the department in the initial stages.

The sudden and untimely death of Arbinda Biswas, Professor and Head department of geography at Vishwabharati University, Santiniketan, at the age of 58, was a severe blow to the geographers' fraternity in India. Arbinda was an eloquent speaker with a firm grip on various dimensions of the subject. A prolific writer, his contribution to gender issues in environment and food and energy systems was path breaking. He will be remembered by his students as a liberal teacher, and by his innumerable friends for his enlivening discussions/debates at the various seminars and conferences which he regularly attended, despite his busy schedule of work.

All in all, the loss of so many stalwarts and trailblazers of Indian geography in a span of two years is most unfortunate. We must find solace in the thought that their memory will inspire the generation of geographers they trained to explore newer horizons. Theirs was a purposeful and intellectually stimulating life.

Jaymala Diddee

Notes and News

The 23rd IIG Meet was held at the Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University, from 1st to 3rd December 2001. This was combined with the International Conference on "Environment, Energy, Technology, Development and Society's Response", with Dr. S.B. Singh as convenor and president of the Meet. The Vice Chancellor inaugurated the Meet, which was held at the spacious Swatantra Bhavan lawns. The welcome address by Dr. S.B. Singh, was followed by a general talk on environment and global warming by Prof. M. Shafi. Prof. Kayastha and Prof. Jagdish Singh, delivered special lectures at the inaugural session. The technical sessions were held in the Department of Geography. A number of foreign delegates from Iran, Nepal, Germany and Sweden participated. About a hundred delegates from all over the country were present. There was a strong contingent from Maharashtra.

A cultural programme was organised in the evening of the first day by Prof. Tara Devi Singh in which the students and teachers of the Institute of Technology put up a wonderful show of dance, drama and music.

Before the close of 2002, the IIG held a National Seminar on "Managing the Urban Fringe of Indian Cities" at the Department of Geography, University of Pune, from 27th to 29th November 2002. The idea of organising the seminar took shape during an informal discussion with Prof. K.R. Dikshit and colleagues at the department of geography, university of Pune, about the haphazard growth and urban sprawl on the urban peripheries of metropolitan cities. To address this serious urban malaise, a

multidisciplinary seminar was organized, where urbanists, geographers, planners, architects, environmentalists, sociologists, economists, planners and more importantly the administrators could bring their perspectives on the problems of Urban Fringe development in Indian cities.

Dr. Pritvish Nag, the Surveyor General of India, who is also the IIG president, lent full support to the seminar. He directed the two organizations: Survey of India and NATMO to hold a special exhibition of maps, atlases and other publications, for the benefit of participants and visitors. We acknowledge with gratitude his generous help and sponsorship. At the seminar, about 35 experts from various organisations, i.e. Survey of India, Dehra Dun, School of Planning, Ahmedabad, architects, town planners and academicians from various university departments, presented papers. In addition, about 60 participants, drawn mainly from geography and allied disciplines offered their critical assessment of the whole scenario of urban development with some worthwhile solutions to deal with the management of the urban fringe. At the end of the three days' deliberations and panel discussions, the organisers felt confident of developing concrete proposals which could be submitted to various statutory bodies of urban policy makers like the Planning Commission, Ministry of Urban Affairs, Municipal Corporations of major metropolitan cities and also the State Town Planning departments and other agencies concerned with addressing the problems of fringe areas. A monograph on Management, Planning and other issues related to fringe areas, in fast growing metropolitan cities, is in the offing.

Forthcoming Events

XXVth Indian Geographers' Meet Institute of Indian Geographers (IIG) National Conference

28th, 29th and 30th November 2003

Venue

Department of Geography
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi 221 005,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Focal Theme

Water Crisis and Sustainable Management

Convener

Prof. D.N. Singh
President of the Meet,
Department of Geography,
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi 221 005,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI)

Main Theme

Mountain Geomorphology:
Multi-Dimensional Approach

November 24-26, 2003

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India

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