

Department of Geography
Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune
34th National Conference of the Indian Institute of Geomorphologist (IGI)
Conference Report

Department of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune has 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 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 also had been 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 Geomorphologist, 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 Geomorphologist (IGI) was inaugurated by Chief Guest **Dr. Sunil Kumar De**, President, International Association of Geomorphologist (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 about the national conference and told about themes and sub-themes.

For the conference, there were total **260** registrations received from participants 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, Gujrat, Delhi, Meghalaya, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Maharashtra to attend this conference.

Out of **185 present participants** total **129** abstracts received from the **168** participants and 17 were participated as attendee and for 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. Dr. Satish J. Sangode**, Professor and Head, Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

It was followed by 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 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 lecture on 'Beauty and Beast of Himalaya: Landscape, Environment and Disasters' and Dr. Lakshminarayan Satpati delivered 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 3rd day i.e 4th November, 2022 and **Prof. Sunando Bandyopadhyay** was on chair. The speakers were **Dr. Arun Saraf**, Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, speaks on 'Rishi Ganga, Uttarakhand, India Coalescent Natural Disaster: A Geoinformatics Perspective'. **Dr. N. C. Jana**, Professor & Former Head, Department of Geography, The University of Burdwan, Burdwan delivered lecture on 'Environmental Implications of Human Intervention in the lower Damodar Basin, West Bengal'. Last speaker of the session was **Dr. Anandakumar Karipot**, Professor and Director, School of Earth Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, talks on 'Significance of geomorphological inputs for improved quantification of terrestrial biosphere carbon fluxes'

Another important activity of IGI conference was **Young Geomorphologist Competition**. A competition held among the young geomorphologists below the age of 35 years. Every year this competition is organized to encourage young research scholars. Nationwide **eight** research scholars enrolled their names for the competition and **seven** research scholars presented their research work in the Young Geomorphologist competition. **Ms. Sayoni Mondal, won the Young Geomorphologist Competition of year 2022** for her contribution in research work. 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 an important session of panel discussion was held. This year our nation is celebrating its **75th Independence day** therefore, in the conference also one entire session of panel discussion was organised and the theme was '**75 Years of Geomorphology in Independent India**'. The panelists 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 panelists discussed about how the Geomorphological research and studies developed during last 75 years in India. It was really informative and as per Geomorphological principle '**The present is the key to the past**' proved this discussion. It was an interesting and fruitful discussion for all the young as well as senior scholars present during this conference. Besides these activities major part of the conference was technical sessions. Based on 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 Semiarid 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 topic relevant to 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 institution.

During the conference on 3rd November, 2022 at 7:00 pm 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 whole nation is celebrating 75 Year of Independent India.

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



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