

# GEOVISTA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU, THIRUVAVUR

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT



I feel immense pride and happiness in introducing the first edition of GeoVista, the quarterly e-Newsletter of the Department of Geography. I believe this e-Newsletter will be the face of the department that will reflect the happenings with a touch of our domain as well. This newsletter not only reflects the growth of our department but will also serve as a platform for bright minds to voice their opinion or share their experiences. This edition marks a milestone for our department, which will complete almost 2 years since its initiation. This will be a memorable gift to our first ever graduating batch and hopefully, they will join us in the newsletter as alumni. I congratulate the editorial team of this first issue and wish them all the best for a successful publication and good luck in all endeavours.

**Prof. Sulochana Shekhar**  
Dean and Head  
Department of Geography  
School of Earth Sciences

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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## VISION

- The foremost vision of the department of Geography is to establish itself as a leading geography department having global impact.
- To generate collaborative activities with public-private sectors and national-international organizations and to formulate, integrate, apply and disseminate cognitive knowledge and research.
- To establish a centre for advanced geographical research with innovative techniques, instrumentation and infrastructure.

## MISSION

- The Department of Geography will strive to be the centre of excellence in both physical and human Geography and Advanced Remote Sensing Techniques through high-quality education.
- The Department aims to inculcate multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research for the benefit of the community and to nurture holistic development.
- Applied learning and innovation will be the prime focus of the Department of Geography.
- The department will uphold its best practices like the commemoration of significant days, national workshops, special lectures, syllabus upgradation and club activities regularly.

## ARTICLE



**Dr. Aakriti Grover**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography

### Rendezvous with the geography of CUTN

The famous painter, MF Hussain was once asked by the veteran Bollywood actress, Madhuri Dixit, what you see? He replied 'I SEE COLOURS...and ask myself if I can produce it on my canvass'. Beautifully, he puts the whole process of painting in a short crisp sentence. My question is 'what does a geographer see?'

Coming to Thiruvarur was an indomitable experience. Days, weeks and months passed and through the eyes and mind of a geographer I see the relationship of nature with human beings, their adaptation, habits, festivals, culture and much more. Everything that surrounds human beings is geographer's domain.

Following google maps, driving from Trichy, I entered Thiruvarur with a sea of green fields along the dry channel of River Vettar in the month of July 2017. With approximately 1195 kilometres north of the equator, Thiruvarur receives sunlight for nearly 10-12 hours on a summer day. Scorching day with early over-head sun is the theme all through the summer season. The night sky, clear and blue, filled with abundant stars unfold the surprise gift Thiruvarur offers to traditionally urban dwellers. The peace and silence under the sea of stars helps you reflect and contemplate your course of life...truly a bliss, few may be blessed with. The winds blowing from the south drip the evenings in June and July making you forget the hardship of the day. Due to extremely high temperature, evenings may treat you with little rainfall too. The months pass by till October when swarming butterflies criss-cross and distract your way. Assemblage of diverse colours from flowers and butterflies take your breath away. How much I missed the butterflies and stars all these years. The chirping birds, sparrows, peacocks, drongo, lapwing and much more are a rarity in Delhi. The beauty and diversity of nature gives unfathomable happiness to our souls. The greens make us at peace with the self and the stars try to show us the paths to follow.

One fine morning in November, I see the river channel filled with water and voila...I was awestruck...I paused enroute and recalled the lesson on 'water is elixir of life'. The river bought social gatherings along the riverbanks, children swimming and most importantly, the migratory birds. From the second storey building of the university I could spot locations where hundreds of thousands of white birds flocked on tree tops looking like fields of flower! A sight that takes your breath away; a sight I would carry in my cognition for life; a sight unique to CUTN...truly exemplary, stupendous and incredible.

Owing to the geographical location, the threats from tropical storms and cyclones are indispensable. The association of nature with human activities is deeply engrained. Sun's movement northwards corresponding with entering of Sun in the 10th house of the zodiac, Makara or Capricorn coincides with the Pongal festival that is celebrated with great pomp and show in the State. The chant "*Paraiyana kadiwalum, Pudiyana Pugudulam*" that literally means, "Let the old things go away and let the new things come in" resembles the harvest and beginning of the new season.

The growing city of Thiruvarur is characteristic of land use / cover changes, urban sprawl, growing transport facilities, amenities and urban settlements. The transition from rural to urban poses unprecedented threats and challenges. It is imperative to plan the growth that is sustainable for environment, society and economy. Like, drop by drop the ocean is created and similarly sustainable individual district will culminate to form sustainable world. As a geographer, I see uniqueness in oneness of the whole. I see how small pieces together make up the whole and yet remain so individualistic and unique and at the same time fit to the big picture like never were separated before!

# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

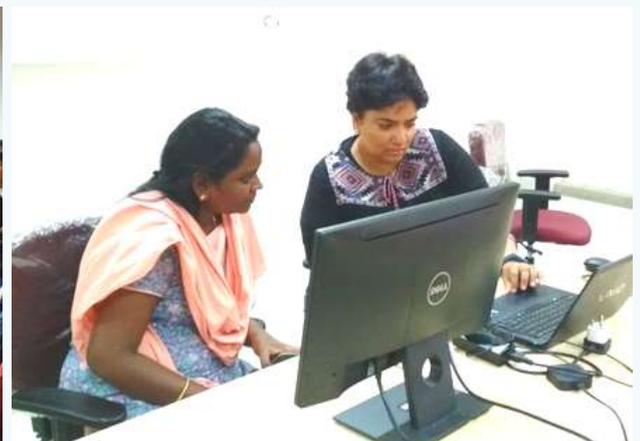
## Special Lectures held in Department of Geography

Dr. Judith Bopp, Post Doctoral Researcher, Cultural Geography Workshop, Institute of Geography, University of Kiel, Germany delivered special lectures on *"Local Knowledge and Spirituality in Natural Farming Practices in Peri-Urban Chennai"* on 5th March 2019.



## Sensitization with celebration of significant days of geographical importance

The department of Geography has actively celebrated various days of geographical importance to spread awareness and sensitize students to concern on problems faced by the present world. Under this series of events, the 'World Wetland Day' was celebrated by the department on 4th Feb 2019 including all students and teachers wherein a lecture on 'Role of wetland in climate change mitigation: Indian scenario' was delivered by Dr. Sarojini Devi Bhoominathan, Senior researcher, Watershed Organization Trust through a webinar. Apart from this a quiz competition was also organized in which students from various departments participated enthusiastically. Additionally photography competition was also conducted for which Prof. V. Madhurima from Department of Physics and Dr. V. Vithya from Department of Applied Psychology were our respected judges.



The National Science Day was organized by the department along with 'Geovista' including all students, research scholars and teachers on 28th Feb 2019 whereby events including geo-locator, story on map and looping (place name game) was conducted with active participation of students.



Further, the Department of Geography celebrated 'World Health Day' on 8th April 2019 wherein presentation cum demo on 'First Aid in emergency situation' was conducted by Medical Officers of CUTN - Dr. Prem Davis and Dr. Vishnu Priya. This was followed by documentary screening and discussion on the documentary, 'What the health?'.



Department of Geography celebrated the Earth Day on 22th April 2019. All the participants were invited to being a part of documentary commemorating this celebration in the cartography lab at 11.20 am. All the students of M.Sc. and Ph.D scholars including teachers participated. Title of the documentary was 'Why can't we predict Earthquakes?'. Earth day is an annual event celebrated on April 22 worldwide, various events are held to support the environment. This documentary telecasting was to support environment and Earth by sensitizing the participants about the earthquakes.

# Five Days National Workshop on Geoinformatics for Beginners

The Department of Geography in collaboration with ESRI organized a National level workshop on "Geoinformatics for Beginners" from 11th Feb 2019 to 15th Feb 2019, inaugurated by our Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.P. Dash and attended by 17 participants. The workshop provided demo and hands on training on digital image processing using ENVI followed by special sessions on Arc Map, Arc Server and GPS. The special guest for the event was Prof. K. Kumaraswamy, UGC-BSR Faculty Fellow, Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli who delivered a lecture on 'Introduction to Geoinformatics'. Mr. Kannan from Allterra Solutions LLP (Trimble Geospatial), Chennai undertook two dedicated sessions on GPS (Global Positioning System) and its use in disaster management, planning and various other application of geospatial research. Additionally, Prof. Sulochana Shekhar, Dr. K. Balasubramani, Dr. E. Venkatesham, Dr. Arun Prasad K., Dr. Divya Rajeswari S. and Dr. K. Annaidasan took separate sessions on all five days.



## Collaboration with ISRO-IIRS

The Department Geography in collaboration with ISRO-IIRS (Indian Institute of Remote Sensing) network from 2017 to till date is offering various outreach programmes to the students, researches and faculty member. So far the Department offered seven basic as well as advanced courses through which more than 90 participants were benefited from 2017 to till date.



### Annual Course Calendar IIRS Distance Learning Program – 2019

S. No.	Course	Time Slot	Course Director/ Coordinator
1.	Hyperspectral Remote Sensing and its application	21 Jan – 01 Feb	Dr. Anil Kumar/ Mr. Vinay Kumar
2.	Principles of Polarimetric SAR Remote Sensing and its Processing	18 Feb – 01 Mar	Dr. Anil Kumar/ Mr. Shashi Kumar
3.	Advances in Forest Remote Sensing	05 – 13 Mar	Dr. Hitendra Padalia/ Dr. Subrata Nandy
4.	Remote Sensing based Mapping, Monitoring and Modelling of Landslide and Earthquake Hazards	22 – 26 Apr	Dr. R. S. Chatterjee/ Dr. S. L. Chatteraj
5.	RS and GIS Application in Watershed Management	08 – 12 Apr	Dr. Suresh Kumar
6.	Advances in Remote Sensing and Geospatial Technology for Disaster Early Warning, Monitoring and Mitigation	10 – 21 Jun	Dr. Arijit Roy/ Shri C. M. Bhatt
7.	Satellite Remote Sensing for Air Pollution Studies	05 – 09 Aug	Dr. D. Mitra/ Dr. Yogesh Kant
8.	Basic for "Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System and Global Navigation Satellite System	19 Aug – 15 Nov	Dr. Poonam S. Tiwari
9.	Remote Sensing and Digital Image Analysis	19 Aug – 13 Sept	Mr. Minakshi Kumar
10.	Global Navigation Satellite System – GPS, GAGAN, Navlc, etc	16 – 27 Sept	Dr. Ashutosh Bhardwaj

11.	Geographical Information System	30 Sept – 25 Oct	Mr. Prasun Kumar
12.	RS and GIS Application	28 Oct – 15 Nov	Dr. Arijit Roy
13.	RS and GIS in Urban and Regional Planning	09 – 20 Dec	Mr. Pramod Kumar

## Full Day Online Workshop Under IIRS Outreach Programme - 2019

S. No.	Workshop Title	Time Slot	Instructor
1.	Geospatial Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction	Mar	Mr. C. M. Bhatt
2.	Microwave RS in Agriculture	Mar 26	Dr. Dipanwita Haldar
3.	Satellite Data Access from Online Data Repositories and ISRO Bhuvan Geospatial	Jun	Mr. Kamal Pandey
4.	Hyperspectral Imaging for Terrestrial & Planetary Exploration	Jul	Mrs. Richa U. Sharma/ Dr. S. L. Chattoraj

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Faculty Academic Awards: Department of Geography

The faculty members of Department of Geography received many achievement awards in this academic year. This includes achievement awards from Bharat Ratna Kamaraj Educational Society to **Prof. Sulochana Shekhar** and **Dr. K. Balasubramani** for their contribution to frame the new school curriculum development and textbooks of Government of Tamil Nadu in 2018.



Dr. K. Balasubramani was awarded Young Scientist Fellowship by Tamil Nadu State Council of Science and Technology in 2018. He also received a certificate of appreciation for the contribution to preparation of District Disaster Management Plan- 2017 from Karur District Collector on 15.08.2017. Adding to the glory of the department, Dr. K. Balasubramani also received ICSSR Travel Grant of Rs. 20,000 to present a research article in the International Conference on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development through Geospatial Technologies organised by the Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka during 24-25 November 2018.

## Student Achievements

1. **Ms. Tini P. Rajendran**, (M.Sc. Geography 2nd year) student secured Second Rank in the 9th State Level Talent Test conducted by the Indian Geographical Society (IGS) on 23rd Jan 2019 and got Prof. A. Ramesh Award, 2019.



2. **Mr. Ashique V. V.**, (Ph.D. Research Scholar), **Mr. Ashish Kumar**, (Ph.D. Research Scholar) and **Mr. Sandip Mondal**, (M.Phil Scholar) cleared UGC-NET JRF Exam.



3. **Mr. R. Kannan**, (M.Sc. Geography 2nd year) cleared UGC-NET-JRF Exam and **Ms. Kripa S.**, (M.Sc. Geography 2nd year) cleared UGC-NET Exam.



## Internships

**Abinaya @ Meenapriya V** - SRM Institute of Science and Technology and The Institute for Geographical Studies, Chennai.

**Anoop Joy** - Thanal (NGO), Thiruvananthapuram.

**Arathy S Kumar** - Thanal (NGO), Thiruvananthapuram.

**Ashwath Balaji V** - Thanal (NGO), Thiruvananthapuram.

**Bibek Dey** - National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj- North East Regional Centre Guwahati.

**Ganga G K** - Thanal (NGO), Thiruvananthapuram.

**Megaraj B R** - Thanal (NGO), Thiruvananthapuram.

**Monica S** - Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad

**Polisetty Rishitha** - Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad.

**Raja Niruthia R** - National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Bengaluru.

**Sai Vignesh A P**- Space Application Centre (Threes Program) Ahmedabad.

**Saligarma Abhiram** - National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Bengaluru.

**Swetha S** - Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad.

**Tanishka Sharma** - National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Bengaluru.

**Visakh V** - Thanal (NGO), Thiruvananthapuram.

**Leo George (Ph.D Scholar)** - Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

## VOX POPULI

"University life.... full of fun, last benches... I must say lost benches, big gang of friends, friendly teachers, hostel rooms, strict warden...the list never ends, it gave me everything it can start from knowledge confidence, encouragement, motivation, and never asked anything back except to stay strong. I always find positive feelings in the department, the way they teach, the way they encourage and the way they motivate and cares. Due to the tireless effort of the department staff, I have gained many experience, knowledge and skills. I feel more confident than before I came here. It seems like I just started the first day of the college, with little fear, lots of excitement, happiness and



**Kamali K**  
(M.Sc Geography 2nd year)

now standing at the last day of it. These days of my college, whenever it flashes in front of me in my life, it's worth watching. I really thank each and everyone in the department for their efforts, time, and dedication for making us realize who we are and how strong we are. And to my friends... After some years we all be busy, with our own life, no more chatting, no more Whats App, may be no more phone calls but, I hope someday we will recall all this with a smile in tears in our eyes, I think all my friends who created wonderful memories in my life."



**"It is a stage for learning everything  
even sky is not our limit."**

- Kannan R  
(M.Sc Geography 2nd year)



**"Time here makes the carbon a diamond"**

- Abby Varghese  
(M.Sc Geography 2nd year)

CUTN is a quite different world where I could meet many friends and very few became close to heart. I came here without much expectations but what I could attain from here both academically & personally was beyond expectation. It's really a best centre for academics. Besides academics we had a lot of entertainment. Weekend hangout with my friends, aarambh fest, photography, evening walks everything added to our enjoyment here. These two years just went off like the flash of my camera. I will definitely miss those days...

**Sathish Kumar T**  
(M.Sc Geography 2nd year)



**Kripa S.**  
(M.Sc Geography 2nd year)

For every CUTians there will be a lot of memorable moments during their academic life which will be a blending of both joy and hardships. We are the first batch of our Geography dept. As freshers, CUTN was a new world for us where we could explore different culture, language and interact with different people. For these two years, though our batch have only 15 students it's just like a family - Geo family. Language was never a barrier for our friendship. We had countless of memories here. Ekumene – our geo club, field trips, science day celebrations, seminars, workshops, aarambh fest, hangout with friends all provided just awesome memories. Every nook and corner of the CUTN can tell a story of friendship. Department have developed greatly over these two years. Of course, Geography department offers a great platform for the students to widen their horizon of knowledge.

Our university is isolated and transportation is a problem if you are not using the university transportation facility or using your own transportation. But it is one of the warmest and friend zoned place I have ever seen. I felt that the lecturers of our faculties were knowledgeable, skilled, enthusiastic, committed and prepared. They are strict and have a good interaction with us. The marking system is very transparent and results are always on time. Wifi enabled campus made learning fruitful and exciting. Teachers made us to face the competitive world bravely. Good training was provided before attending placements. workshops, seminars, celebrating important days throughout the semester kept us engaged.

“Most people remember the ending of the book than the beginning and the middle”.



**Sneha Mohan**  
(M.Sc Geography 2nd year)



Department of Geography bid farewell to our first passing out batch with lots of love and emotions.

