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GEOVISTA / VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 3

# GEOVISTA

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

WITHOUT  
GEOGRAPHY,  
YOU'RE  
NOWHERE



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**



Hi everyone.

July to September! Geographically, very significant months. Maharashtra and Kerala experienced heavy rains and flooded during this southwest monsoon season. Thiruvapur also got wet because of some tropical depressions. At CUTN, in our department, these three months were packed with activities. The department which had just bid farewell to its first batch got ready to welcome the 2019-2021 batch with vigour and enthusiasm.

M.Sc, M.Phil. and PhD admissions were completed successfully. The first alumni meet of the department, orientation program for the new students, freshers' day, IIRS outreach program kept our students and faculties busy throughout. Celebration of Population Day, World Ozone Day, Water Monitoring Day and Tourism Day, Geo club activities, encouraged our students to show their organizing skills and leadership qualities, while also spreading awareness regarding important environmental issues and generating discussions regarding the same.

Meanwhile, with the consent of our esteemed Board of Studies Members, a minor revision of syllabus was carried out in the month of August 2019. Our M.Sc students shared their internship experience and presented digital posters. They also planned their nascent (National level) educational tour program to Rajasthan and Gujarat during October 2019. The teachers' day on 5th Sep 2019 celebrated the relationship between teachers and students.

So, this newsletter has a lot of events to share colourfully and I congratulate the editorial team for their tireless effort in bringing out this third issue of e-Newsletter to and for us on time.

Thank you.

**Prof. Sulochana Shekhar**  
**Head of Department**  
**Department of Geography**

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## PIECE OF EXPOSURE

### CUTN to Czech Republic

*Nivedita Priyadarshini. K*

Foundation for excellence is giving wings to the dream of students. “Research knows no boundaries” and it is inherently collaborative across disciplines and countries. Research is outspread and as a student, gaining overseas experience makes one reap success and confidence in career perspective. In that case, I had a chance to represent the flag of India by presenting a contribution at the



Geo-Information for Disaster Management (Gi4DM, 2019) conference held at Prague, the capital city of The Czech Republic. Getting myself immersed in a new culture, meeting people from all over the world, sharing research ideas through interactive presentations and discussion about innovative projects in world-class institutes gave me a novel experience. The trip helped me boost up my internal profile and guide the fellow students of the Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu to ensure that we are first in line for future opportunities. Thanks to the Department, for its sole support and the chance provided with which I could make it and flourish with flying colours.

### Digital Pedometric Mapping

*Tanishka Sharma*

The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Bangalore, a premier institute Of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) ,was set up during 1976 with the objective to prepare soil resource maps at national ,state and district levels and to provide research inputs in soil resource mapping and it’s applications, land evaluation, land use planning, land resource management, and database management using GIS for optimising land use on different kinds of soils in the country.The Bureau has been engaged in carrying out soil resource survey, agro-ecological and soil degradation mapping at the country, state and district levels for qualitative assessment and monitoring the soil health towards land use planning. The Bureau has the mandate

to correlate and classify soils of the country and maintain a National Register of all the established soil series. I joined this institute as an intern for the learning purpose of digital soil mapping under the guidance of S. Dhurumrajan. Under his guidance, I have learned many things related to the project as well as patience for doing any work. I worked on Digital Soil Mapping, for which I have collected 101 sample's data through which I have chosen my study area as Malappuram. I have done "Digital soil



Mapping of Malappuram district" by using Arc GIS, SAGA GIS and Rstudio. In all the mean, through this internship, I have gained office experience and learned software skills. In this all time, I have learned that your data should be enough and correct for any project, it is like that we have to choose the right way for achieving the goal.

## Coastal Regulation Zone & Climate Change

*Anoop Joy, Theodore Sangeeth. S*

Thanal is an NGO situated in the city of Trivandrum in the southern district of Kerala. It was started in 1986 by a small group of nature enthusiasts to bring environmental awareness to the people. Their aim was to raise an environmentally conscious generation by conducting studies on natural history and bringing environmental education to school and colleges.

Their focus areas are agriculture and food sovereignty, sustainable resource use and management and living ecosystem. They also focus on the issue related to climate change. So we both worked together under the climate action team by the guidance of Mr. Raju who is our project director for the project of 'Perspective study of sea-level changes in coastal Kerala.

Our study is based on the perspectives of local residents who live near the coastal line of Kerala. Sea level changes are studied through collecting data using personal interview method within the 100 m distance from the current coastal line. The total coastal length of Kerala is 590 km and the coastal area lies in 9 districts. Three study areas were selected in each coastal districts of Kerala and each study area is situated in South, Middle and North parts of these districts. From each study area of a district, ten local residents have been selected and interviewed. An equal number of men and women are considered. Later the collected information has been viewed and analysed through the geographical quantitative techniques.

Through the Internships, we could able to gain the diverse knowledge about the climate change,



especially through the conversation with the fishermen, local knowledge, communication skills, practical knowledge, etc. All these experiences gave us a wider exposure and knowledge regarding climate change which influences the level of the sea rises. Therefore, the internship not only provided the opportunity to work with them but also improve the overall personality of us....

## The Paradigm Shift in Soil Mapping with Geo-Informatics Tools

*Saligrama Abhiram*

In India, 70 percent of the population is still dependent on agriculture and most of them belongs to the rural area. Knowledge about the soil, cropping pattern, best methods to enhance productivity is foremost necessary for the farmers. My interest lies in predicting and mapping the soil properties, which plays a pivotal role from crop selection to the composition of fertilisers, increase in productivity. Opportunity as an intern in NBSS&LUP (ICAR) Regional centre, Bangalore helped me to focus on my area interest, nurture the ideas, helped me to gain knowledge and learned the digital soil mapping.

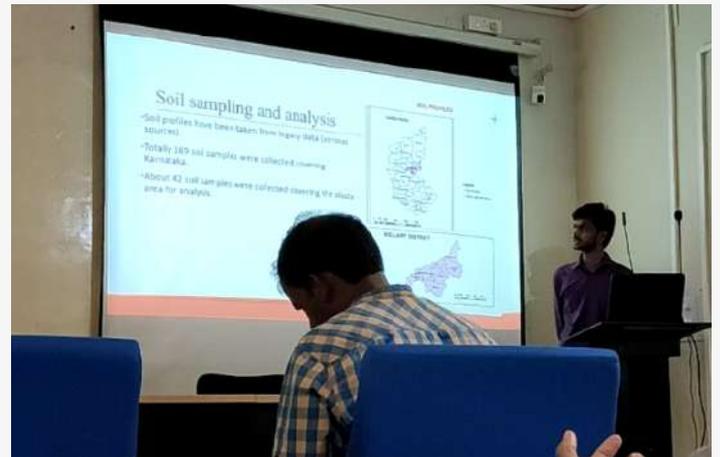
National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR) Regional centre, Bangalore was established in 1976 is mandated with the generation of land/soil resources data for the operational jurisdiction of southern India viz. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep islands, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu. Initially, it functioned as a soil correlation centre from the year 1956 under the Ministry of Agriculture (GOI) and brought under ICAR in 1969. The activities of Research, Human Resource Development and user interactions are taken up in the following core areas of competence.

- Land / Soil resource survey and mapping
- Soil Correlation
- Land Evaluation and Socio-Economic Analysis for land use planning
- Remote Sensing Applications
- GIS Applications
- Watershed Management
- Climatic and Hydrological data analysis
- Agro-ecological Zonations

There has been a paradigm shift in soil mapping with the advent of geo-informatics. New statistical

and spatial models emerged and one among them was the Quantile Regression Forest model that allows predicting the soil properties which gives prediction and uncertainty too. The purpose of my study is to map the spatial variation of the major soil properties in Bellary district, Karnataka, India, using Random forest and Quantile regression forest model. Besides 42 soil samples, all elements of SCORPAN model were considered and data collected from various sources. High-resolution satellite imagery (ALOS PALSAR DEM) used to obtain terrain attributes such as elevation, slope, aspect, etc., vegetation attributes such as NDVI, EVI were from MOD13Q1, climatic variables from world clim data, and Sentinel 2 values extracted with 13 bands used for better prediction of soil properties.

Besides the subject and technical knowledge, the experience in this institute helped me to be more punctual, disciplined and dedicated to my work. Time management is a major lesson that I have learned. Guidance from the Dr. S.Dharmarajan (Senior Scientist) and the institute helped me to complete my internship successfully and I believe these lessons will result in fruitful output in the future.



## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### Perspective of Geography and the World

The Department of Geography has always actively involved itself in celebrating days of geographical importance. Adding to the list was World Population Day celebration, which is observed on 11th July every year since 1989. The governing council of UNDP had initiated the event, since then it is observed as an annual event to seek global attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. The date 11th July 1987 was officially chosen as on this day, the global population actually crossed five billion marks.

This celebration was collaborated with the club activities of the department. Debate, digital poster making and a special talk was organized on 12th July 2019 in Cartography Laboratory. The main aim of this celebration was to spread awareness and sensitize the students towards the importance of population issues.

The event started at 03:10 p.m. with a welcome address by Mr. A. Balasundareswaran, Guest Faculty, Department of Geography, the Central University of Tamil Nadu followed by the inaugural

address delivered by Prof. Dr. Sulochana Shekhar, Dean of School of Earth Science and Head, Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu. In her speech, she addressed on different aspects of population dynamics in India, its socio-economic implications, and the need for public awareness in this regard. To emphasize this, students have arranged a debate on the topic 'Population growth as an underlying cause of environmental degradation'. The students divided into two groups and actively participated in supporting 'for' and 'against' the motion. At the end of the debate, Dr. K. Balasubramani, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, the Central University of Tamil Nadu who was the moderator of the session concluded the debate. The responsibility of coordinators and judges of the events were Dr. Aakriti Grover and Dr. E. Venkatesham along with the Guest Faculties. The session was a kaleidoscope of opinions, thoughts, and perspectives that definitely enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the topic.

This was followed by a special talk delivered by Mr. Dinabandhu Mahata, Research Scholar, Department of Geography, on the topic "Demographic transition and women empowerment in West Bengal". As a former student of IIPS, Mumbai, he has delivered insight and misconception in the topics of population growth, gender inequality, and pressure on women due to population increase in India. In his talk, he gave us an overview on women empowerment debated with added inputs on gender inequality, and pressure on women due to population increase. He took West Bengal as a benchmark and compared with that of rest of the country, which gave us an overall idea on the state of women, equal opportunity, choice of freedom, and various reasons behind it.

After this eye-opening talk, Students and Research Scholars displayed their creative and artistic skills through Digital poster making competition. The competition was based on the topic 'Unfilled Agendas', in which students had their choice to select any of the unfulfilled agendas and make a simple yet impactful poster. Though the time allotted for the activity was only 30 minutes, it witnessed several strong ideas and messages, thereby fulfilling the objectives of the event.



Altogether, the event was a complete package filled of creativity, fun, arguments and knowledge. The timely cooperation and support extended by the head of the department, faculties, students and research scholars in conducting the event. This event also marked the successful inauguration of the Geo club for the academic year 2019-2020.

## Geo Club Activities

After the successful inauguration of the Geography club on 12th July 2019, the main agenda of the Geo Club meeting held on 19th July 2019 was to decide about the structure and functioning of the club for the academic year 2019-2020. This meet also emphasized on creating awareness among the students on the World day for International Justice and International Nelson Mandela day observed on 17th and 19th July respectively.

Students, Research scholars and Faculty of the Department assembled in Cartography lab at 3 pm for the scheduled meeting that started with a report on World Population Day presented by Ms. R. Raja Niruthia of M.Sc. II Year, Department of Geography. Followed by this, to ensure smooth functioning and for organizing events, the students were fractioned into three groups and for each group leaders and sub-leaders were elected. The students were also given the responsibilities of creating and managing YouTube channel and a Web Blog for posting updates on activities conducted by the club in monthly basis. This would enable a larger group of general audience to get to know about the club activities. Updates on club activities would be displayed in Department notice board to spread awareness.

<b>Team/Members</b>	<b>Nemophilist</b>	<b>Astrophile</b>	<b>Thalassophile</b>
M.Sc II Year	Arathy S. kumar	Aswath Balaji V.	Abinaya @ Meenapriya
	Deepika M.	Bibek Dey	Anoop Joy
	Ganga G. K.	Prasanta Ghadei	Monica S.
	Megharaj B. R.	Raja Niruthia R.	Polisetty Rishitha
	Prabhat Ranjan	Sai Vignes A.P.	Rajkishore Muduli
	Swetha S.	Tanishka Sharma	Ravi Prasanth S.
	Theodore Sangeeth S.	Visakh V.	Saligrama Abhiram

Thereafter, a brief talk was delivered on the importance of celebrating World day for International Justice and International Nelson Mandela day by Mr. A. Balasundareswaran, Guest Faculty, Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu, with which the session was concluded.



## Alumni Meet 2019

The Department of Geography conducted its first Alumni meet on July 27th, 2019. Out of 15 passed out students, 12 students graced the occasion with their presence. The session started with the keynote



speech by Dean of the School, Prof Sulochana Shekhar. Thereafter Dr. Aakriti Grover, Dr. Balasubramani, Dr. Arun Prasad K., and Dr. K. Annaidhasan addressed the students and gave valuable advice for their future endeavours. All the Alumni gave their feedback about the Department/University from their past 2-year experience and thanked the Department/University for providing the opportunity to complete their masters. Later, an alumni association was formed and unanimously elected Ms. Sneha Mohan as the president, Mr. Abby Varghese as the secretary and Mr. Kannan R. as the treasurer for the year 2019-2020. In the first meeting of the alumni association, the following was resolved:

- Conduct Alumni meet every year on 27th July as it is the foundation day of the Department and requested all the members to attend the meeting.
- Contribute monetarily to the association and open a separate bank account for financial management.



- Create an email group for effective communication with the alumni members.
- Support the geo club activities of the Department and actively contribute to the newsletter 'GeoVista'

On the same occasion, the first official newsletter of the Department of Geography, 'GeoVista' was also released.

## Eoseo Wa 2.0

The Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu welcomed its new inmates, on 9th August 2019. The admittance of students from all over the nation remarked the diversity of department once again. Energetic and enthusiastic freshmen had high vibes and enthralling adrenaline. The scheduled program started at 10:00 AM. The event was graced with the presence of our respectable Head of Department Prof. Sulochana Shekhar and all other Faculties. The event started with the speech from Head of Department and was followed by speeches delivered from other faculties of the Department. The speech raised the spirit of young minds and motivated them

to work hard towards the collective goal of the Department and their dreams. Each of the students was gifted with saplings that were planted near the new building of the Department. Being a student of Earth science this was an initiative towards the Greener Earth and Sustainable Development. Later the part of the event was fun-filled, in which they were called upon individually to introduce and interact with other inmates of the department. They were assigned some individual task which they have to accomplish. Be it singing or dancing they are next level in every field. With high spirit and motivation, the event ended on a good note with lots of laughs and enjoyment and a hope to cherish this bond forever.



## STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENT

### NET QUALIFIERS



Abinaya @ Meenapriya

### CENTRAL TEACHERS ELIGIBILITY TEST QUALIFIERS



Prasanta Ghadei



Raja Niruthia R



Rajkishore Muduli



Saligrama Abhiram



# GREAT CIRCLE

Hi, I am Rasme Allat V. I'am very happy to be admitted to the Department of Geography, central university of Tamil Nadu. At first, I was disappointed by the harsh environment but now I feel it like my second home. The faculties here are friendly, approachable, knowledgeable and they care about us. I feel my classroom as a place of integration between different states of India. I wish our Department will spread it wings globally and reach its great heights soon. There is a good clearance that CUTN is the best place to acquire high knowledge of Geography.



**Rasme Allat V**  
(M.Sc Geography 1st year)



**Jishna T**  
(M.Sc Geography  
1st year)

Myself Jishna T, from Kerala. The first time in CUTN was scary and disappointing. Day by day, such thoughts vanished from my mind and I fell in love with CUTN campus. Now I am concerned about the coming two years of my CUTN life, I hope it becomes the milestone of my life. I got good, caring friends and the whole classroom seems like a family to me. We are from seven states of India and we maintain the "Unity in diversity". The main backbone of our Geography department is especially our faculties. All are sincere to their profession and they take good care of us. One who wishes to pursue their dreams in the field of geography can choose CUTN without any doubt....

Hi!! I'm R.Devadharshini Ist year M.Sc Geography student. First while coming here I felt bad because there is no proper facility for transportation. It's not easy to go to my hometown was my 1st disappointment. But this mindset was just there for two days. After that everyone in this department just turned these thoughts out from it. No faculty hesitated to help the students. They give good suggestions for studies and in personal life. It is a good place to gain more knowledge. Each staff in this department is very kind and caring. No one tried hurting us even through small words. I am so happy that I got a great opportunity to study in this Central University Of Tamil Nadu.



**R. Devadharshini**  
(M.Sc Geography 1st year)



Hi, I am Nethaji. First of all, I would like to thank all the faculties of the Department. They are very friendly with the students in all situations. They are naturally interested to help the students in the subject manner as well as in general. They also clear general doubts. On the first day, our HOD mam told us that you would gain a piece of very good knowledge in the upcoming two years. I am feeling very secure about my future because I am here in CUTN. I would like to thank all the faculty members once again.

**Nethaji .S**  
(M.Sc Geography 1st year)

Myself P. Arumugam. First of all, I thank the professors and the Department of Geography for allowing me to share my opinion. I like the vast infrastructure of the University. Faculties here are very friendly and they are very helping. I feel very happy to be exposed to a diverse culture.



**P. Arumugam**  
(M.Sc Geography 1st year)



**Debanjana Pramanick**  
(M.Sc Geography 1st year)

Hello... I am Debanjana. I'm in the first year of M.Sc Geography in CUTN. Our Geography Department is so rich with friends as well as highly qualified professors along with our honourable HOD mam. We have got such helpful and friendly seniors also. After I came here, I was quite worried about the facilities that are available here. Also, this place is quite far from my home town. So I was a little emotional for a few days. But all these worries and emotions went with the passing days when I started to converse with all my fellow mates. They are very friendly and good-hearted people. Also, I am exposed to several cultures and their different food habits here. So summing up, I started liking this place and fell in love with this place.

I found there is a garden called CUTN, There I have seen a huge banyan tree called Department of Geography, As I went near to that tree I noticed it has very strong trunk looking like shikara of the temple(HOD mam(mom)),Around it there were many pillar/prop roots which were giving support to the mother root (All Faculties), And also I have seen many aerial roots (Ph.D Scholars), these aerial roots are looking like future pillar roots of this tree, On the above there were several little green glimmering leaves (Beloved Seniors) those leaves carries droplets of rain (Knowledge) and my eyes smiled looking by them. I think i have found a right tree, now I can get enlightened with knowledge in the lap of this beautiful tree.



**Akula Ajay Karthik**  
(M.Sc Geography 1st year)



## **Acknowledgement**

We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude and special thanks to Prof. Sulochana Shekhar for her continuous guidance and support. We also would like to extend our sincere gratitude and special thanks to Dr. K. Balasubramani, Dr. Venkatesam .E., Dr. Arun Prasad K., Dr. Balasundareshwaran A., Dr. Annaidasan. K. For their continuous support. We also like to take this opportunity to thanks Ms. R. Maheswari, V. Sivashankari, and Mr. M. Muthu kumareasan for their valuable contribution.

Thanks for students who all are contributed equally for completing this newsletter

With Regards

**Geo-Vista editorial team**

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**GEO VISTA**