

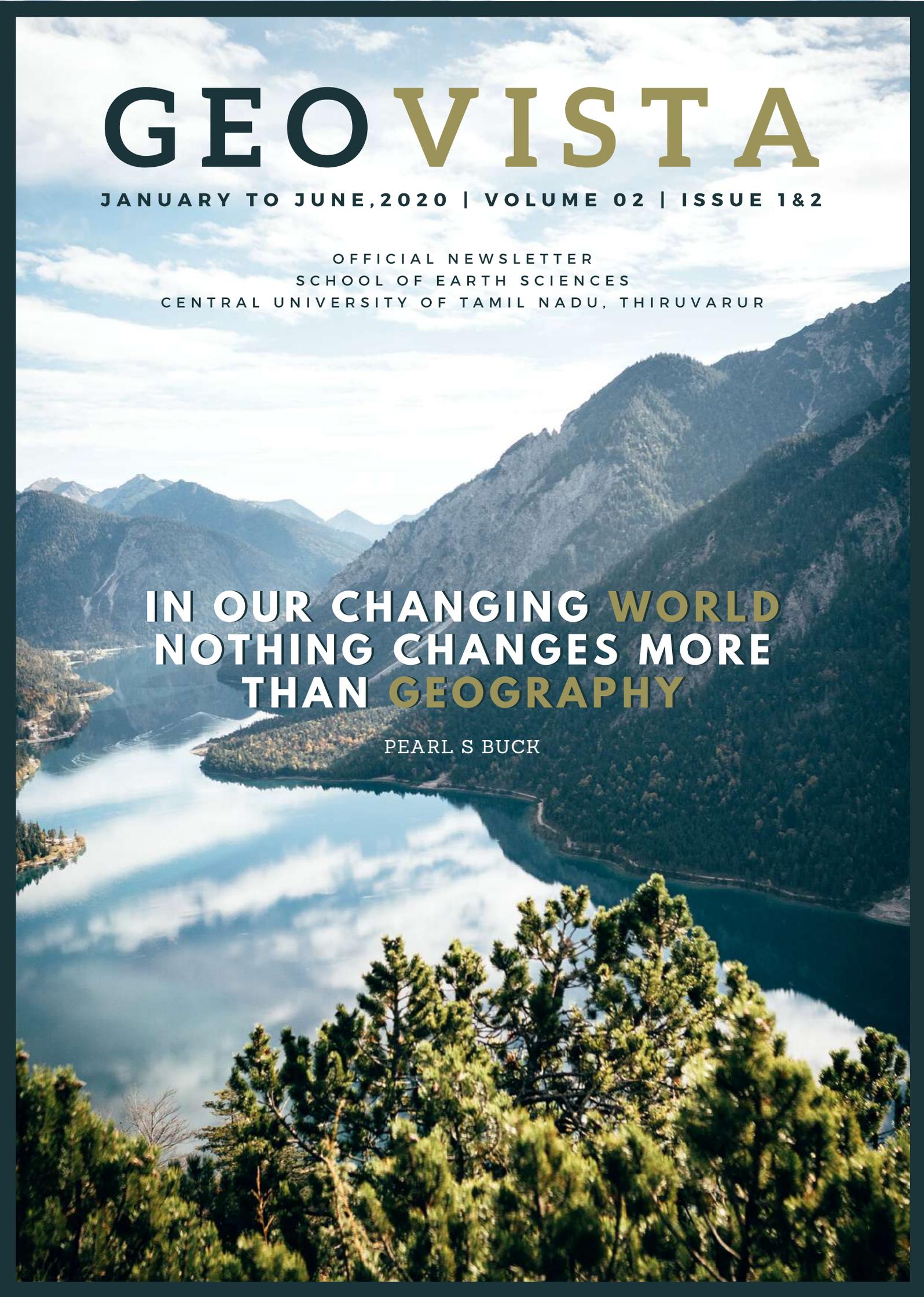
GEOVISTA

JANUARY TO JUNE, 2020 | VOLUME 02 | ISSUE 1&2

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU, THIRUVARUR

IN OUR CHANGING **WORLD**
NOTHING CHANGES MORE
THAN **GEOGRAPHY**

PEARL S BUCK



DEAN'S MESSAGE



Hi everyone,

Trust all are safe and healthy.

Welcome to our first issue in 2020, which is going to give you a glimpse of the past six months. As usual, we have many things to share with you. At the outset, I congratulate the new team members and welcome them to the Editorial board. The new year of 2020 started with new hopes and new targets. We had our iconic workshop on "Geoinformatics for Beginners" in January 2020. It was well received and appreciated by the participants. A new milestone in the history of the Geography department happened during February 2020. Yes, we moved to our own space in the CUTN universe. March 2020, added a new faculty, Dr. Arun Prasad K., to our strength. In April, we have procured Trimble Total Station which would enable advanced surveying practicals for our students.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic gave trouble and stopped our field visit to Vishakapatnam, our students and faculty showed full moral and physical courage to achieve our academic plan. They extended their full support to cover the syllabus and completed their dissertation work with flying colours. The digital platform helped us join virtually to celebrate World Environment day and Oceans Day successfully. The ultimate achievement was getting to meet Parents online.

We bid farewell to our passing out batch on our Foundation day, i.e., 27th June virtually. All of us enjoyed the event even though it felt like something was missing. I wish them Good luck in all their future endeavours. Hope and Pray that this Pandemic ends soon and we will have a lot more to share with you all in our next issue. Until then stay safe and have courage.

Prof. Sulochana Shekhar

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SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES WELCOMES NEWLY JOINED FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr. Balamurugan Guru has joined as an Associate Professor in the Department of Geology in June 2020. Previously he was working as an Associate Professor in Centre for Geoinformatics, Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Management, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He received AICTE-National Doctoral Fellowship and DAAD Fellowship respectively for his Ph.D. work at IIT-Bombay and Freiburg university of Technology and Mining, Germany. His research interests include Sustainable development, Natural Disaster Mapping, Risk Analysis, and Environmental Impact Assessment.



Dr. Anjali Vijayan has joined as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology in March 2020. She received her Master's degree in Applied Geology from Pondicherry University, where she secured ONGC Chennai Gold Medal for her academic excellence. She completed her PhD from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. After a brief stint as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology, Central University of Karnataka, she pursued her Post-doctoral research at National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram. Her current research focuses on Igneous petrology and Geochemistry.



Dr. Arun Prasad K. has joined as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography in March 2020. He received his Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala in 2016. He was awarded the International Climate Protection Fellowship from Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany for his postdoctoral research in German Remote Sensing Data Centre, German Aerospace Centre, Munich (2017-2018).

SPECIAL MENTION

Ms. K. Nivedita Priyadarshini, Project fellow of the Department of Geography has been selected for admission in M.Sc. Geoinformatics in Institute for Geo-Informatics (IFGI), University of Münster, Germany.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Prof. Sulochana Shekhar

- Nominated as Vice-President of the Indian Geographical Society, Chennai (the oldest geographical society in India established in 1926)
- Recommended for Fulbright Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar 2020-21 (J. William Fulbright Fellowship, Washington, D.C.)
- Life Member of Indian Science Congress Association (Earth System Science) (L39794)

Dr. K. Balasubramani

- Assistant Editor of the Indian Geographical Journal
- Received a minor project from ICSSR entitled Measuring vulnerability to coastal hazards in Tamil Nadu: Implications for policy formulation towards a resilient coastal society
- Life Membership in Institute of Indian Geographers (L-1097)

Dr. Arun Prasad K.

- Life Membership in Institute of Indian Geographers (L-1095)

Abby Varghese

- Selected as one among 20 young researchers to attend GeoTiA 2019, a 21 days NRDMS- DST Winter School hosted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and received second best project presentation in the event.
- Received India Smart City Fellowship granted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India

EXAMS QUALIFIED



Amit Kumar
UGC-JRF



Prashant Ghadei
UGC-NET, and Central Teacher Eligibility Test conducted by CBSE



Theodore Sangeeth
Central Teacher Eligibility Test conducted by CBSE

PLACEMENT OFFERS RECIEVED



Theodore Sangeeth
PGT social science
Shri Shirdi Sai Vidya Niketan,
Rajahmundry, A.P



Sai Vignesh
TriCAD DESIGN CONSULTANTS (P)
LTD, Hyderabad.



V Aswath Balaji
GIS Technical Support Analyst at Cyber
Tech, Thane, India through off campus
selection.



R.Raja Niruthia
Marigold International School, Bengaluru



Abhiram Saligrama
Kovida Ltd Hyderabad, as subject matter
expert and Shri Shirdi Sai Vidyanikethan,
Rajahmundry, as PGT Social Sciences

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Balasundareshwaran, A., Kumaraswamy, K., & Balasubramani, K. 2020. Multi-Hazard Zonation for Effective Management of Disasters in Tamil Nadu. *Geosfera Indonesia*, 5(1), 65–79. <https://doi.org/10.19184/geosi.v5i1.16710>

Balasubramani, K. 2020. Assessment of Watershed Resources for Sustainable Agricultural Development: A Case of Developing an Operational Methodology Under Indian Conditions Through Geospatial Technologies, *Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.*, XLII-3/W11, 9–13, <https://doi.org/10.5194/isprs-archives-XLII-3-W11-9-2020>, 2020

Saravanabavan, V., Balaji, D., Reshma, C. U., Sheheersha, S. K., Sudharsan, R., Vimala Vinnarasi, J., Ganesan, J., Rahamath Nisha, R., Eswari, S., & Balasubramani, K. (2020). Urban disease ecology and its spatial variation of Chikungunya in Madurai City, Tamilnadu, India: A geo-medical study. *GeoJournal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-020-10192-6> In Press.

Grover, A and Singh, R.B (2020). *Urban Health and Wellbeing: Indian Case Studies*, Springer.

PARTICIPATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Prof. Sulochana Shekhar

- Presented research article on “Mapping the green infrastructure of urban areas using OBIA based transferable ruleset and GeoEye data” in the 107th Indian Science Congress organized by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru during 04-06 January, 2020.
- Delivered a Plenary talk on “Role of Geospatial technologies in managing Public Health Challenges” in the National Conference on Public Health Challenges of Tropical Diseases – Moving Towards Universal Access organized by the Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamil Nadu on 13 February 2020
- Delivered Invited lecture on Geoinformatics in Urban Planning and Management at DST-NRDMS Winter School on Geospatial Technology (7-2-2020 to 8-3-2020) on 29th Feb 2020
- Delivered Invited lecture on Spatial Data Analysis and Modeling – Urban Heat Island at DST-NRDMS Winter School on Geospatial Technology (7-2-2020 to 8-3-2020) on 29th Feb 2020
- Completed UN-CC Learn E Course on “Climate Change: From Learning to Action” on 4th April 2020
- Participated and successfully completed IIRS Outreach Programme on “Basics of SAR Remote Sensing” May 26, 2020 to May 30, 2020.
- Delivered Invited lecture on “Quality Assurance in Learning” during the "International Webinar on "Digital Possibilities to Improve the Quality of Language Learning" organized by Faculty development Cell, Central University of Tamil Nadu on 16th June 2020.
- Delivered Invited lecture on “Mapping Informal settlement using Geospatial technologies” during the Webinar series organized by Amity University, Noida Campus, Delhi on 26th June 2020.

GEOCLUB ACTIVITIES



WORLD WETLAND DAY

As the part of the GeoClub activities, World Wetland Day was celebrated in the department on 07.02.2020. A quiz programme was conducted on the occasion to raise importance about the wetlands and its conservation. This was followed by screening of documentary on the conservation of wetlands.

Dr. Aakriti Grover

- Participated in One Day Webinar on 'COVID -19 : Responses and Risk reduction' organised by Department of Geography, Kamala Nehru College on April 25, 2020.
- Participated in National Webinar on 'Urban Health Hazard and Preparedness in Global Pandemic COVID -19' organised by Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College and NIDM on May 2, 2020.
- Attended webinar on "Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals Organized by the Department of Geography, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, Adamas University on 29th June 2020.
- Attended National Webinar organized by Dept. of Geography, Jagjiwan College, Gaya and attending it on Topic 'Impact of Covid-19 on the migrant workers and future strategies for sustainable livelihood'
- Attended webinar on 'Webinar on Migration, Livelihood & Vulnerabilities in COVID Scenario' SBSC, DU (22 June 2020)
- Attended webinar on international webinar "Impact of Covid-19 on Society and Education : A Perspective", organized by the internal quality assurance cell, Swami Shraddhanand College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India on 20 June 2020

Dr. K. Balasubramani

- Presented research article on District disaster risk management plan for Karur district, Tamil Nadu in the 107th Indian Science Congress organized by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru during 04-06 January, 2020

PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED



NATIONAL LEVEL WORKSHOP ON "GEOINFORMATICS FOR BEGINNERS"

The Department of Geography organized a National level workshop on "Geoinformatics for Beginners" from 27th Jan 2020 to 31st Jan 2020. The workshop provided principles and hands-on training on remote sensing, GIS and GNSS to the participants.

- Delivered invited lecture on Spatial Pattern of Tropical Diseases in the National Conference on Public Health Challenges of Tropical Diseases – Moving Towards Universal Access organized by the Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamil Nadu on 13 February 2020
- Participated in the IIRS User Interaction Meet held at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Department of Space, Dehradun during 3-4 Mar 2020
- Participated and successfully completed 6-week MOOC course on Spatial Data Science: The New Frontier in Analytics during Feb 26 – Apr 8 2020 conducted by ESRI, USA.
- Delivered invited lecture on Disaster Risk Management: Overview of Concepts and Role of Geoinformatics in the Online Workshop on Geospatial Technology: Natural Resource Appraisal and Management organized by the Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur on 2 May 2020
- Delivered invited lecture on Spatial Perspectives of Covid-19 and its Impacts in the National Webinar on Covid-19 and Geonomics organized by the Department of Geography and Economics, Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara, Maharashtra on 28 May, 2020
- Participated and successfully completed 6-week MOOC course on Cartography during Apr 22 2020–Jun 3 2020 conducted by ESRI, USA

- Chaired a session in IGU- India International E- Conference on Implications of Covid-19 on Local & Regional Sustainable Development: A Global Perspective, organized by the Department of Geography, Osmania University on 28 June, 2020

Dr. E. Venkatesham

- Delivered lectures on 1) Introduction to Open Source GIS and 2) Geospatial Data Exploration in the National Workshop on Geoinformatics for Beginners organized by Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu during 27–31 January 2020.
- Participated in six-day short-term course (STC) on Disaster Management organized by UGC-HRDC, Osmania University, Hyderabad during 2- 7 March 2020.

Dr. Arun Prasad K.

- Delivered lectures on 1) Fundamentals of Remote Sensing and 2) Remote Sensing of Coastal Wetlands in the National Workshop on Geoinformatics for Beginners organized by the Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu during 27-31 January, 2020.
- Participated in the Introductory Webinar: Satellite Remote Sensing for Agricultural Applications organized by NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET) between April 14, 2020 and May 05, 2020.
- Participated in the Advanced Webinar: Forest Mapping and Monitoring with SAR Data organized by NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET) between May 12, 2020 and May 21, 2020.
- Delivered invited lecture on Remote Sensing of our Changing Environment as the part of Special Lecture Series organized by the Department of Geography, Bangalore University, Bangalore on 09 June, 2020.

Ashique V. V. & Dr. Aakriti Grover

- Presented a paper on the topic "Assessing land surface temperature responses to land use land cover dynamics using Landsat data" at National Conference on Impact of Climate Change on food, Water and Health: Issues and Challenges, Aligarh Muslim University that held on February 1-2, 2020.
- Presented a paper at "Nation conference on Public Health Challenges of Tropical Diseases: Moving towards Universal Access" from Central University of Tamil Nadu that held on February 13th-14th, 2020.

Dinabhandu Mahata

- Presented a paper titled "Climate change impacts on health of urban population: A systematic review" at the International Conference on Agriculture, Food, Water, Biodiversity, and Health in Changing Climate of XIV International Geographical Union (IGU) on 06-08 March 2020 in the University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India.

K. Nivedita Priyadarshini

- Participated and presented the poster entitled "Segmentation of Urban Green Species from

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Department offered following seven outreach programmes through Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (ISRO-IIRS) to the students/research scholars/faculty members during Jan-Jun 2020.

- Geo-processing and Visualization on Web Platform (27 Jan to 07 Feb, 2020)
- Space Based Application of Geospatial Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction (17 Feb to 06 Mar, 2020)
- Remote Sensing in Crop Monitoring and Assessment (19 May to 9 Jun, 2020)
- Basic Principles of Remote Sensing Technology (13-25 Apr, 2020)
- Basics of SAR Remote Sensing (26-30 May, 2020)
- Machine Learning for Remote Sensing Data Classification (01 Jun, 2020)
- Health GIS (15-19 Jun, 2020)

Point Clouds and Hyperspectral Dataset” at Women Science Congress, 107th Indian Science Congress, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, 04-06 January, 2020.

V. Sivashankari

- Participated and presented the poster entitled “Mitigation of Urban Heat Island to Promote Sustainable Green Environment using Bio-Based Building Materials with Hyperspectral and Multispectral Remote Sensing” at Women Science Congress, 107th Indian Science Congress, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, 04-06 January, 2020.

Kannan R.

- Attended three days national level online training programme “Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience” from 17 to 19 June 2020 organized by National Institute of Disaster Management in Collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Institute, Bapatla, Guntur District.
- Attended One day online workshop on “Book and article publishing and Springer Link platform demonstration” organized by Guru Nanak Dev University in collaboration with Springer Nature on April 22, 2020.

Abby Varghese

- Attended a National Webinar organized by Department Of Criminology and Police Studies, Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Jodhpur on 4th June 2020.
- Attended a Webinar Series “Tech Clinic and Urban lounge” cohosted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India on 21st May 2020

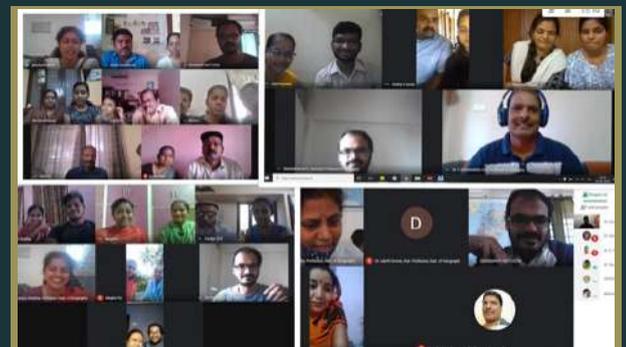
Lokesh Kanth C

- Presented a paper titled Influence of Climate change Vector Borne Diseases in Tamil Nadu, in the Joint Conference on "Public Health Challenges on Tropical Diseases - Moving Towards Universal Access" organized by the Department of Social Work of Central University of Tamil Nadu on 13 & 14 February 2020

Aswath Balaji V.

- Attended a Two-day workshop on Regional Framework for Coastal Vulnerability towards the Safety, Security and Sustainable Development of Member States in the Indian Ocean organized by IOCINDIO between 6 and 7 January 2020.
- Attended Regional Planning Workshop for the Northern/Central Indian Ocean countries as well as the ROPME sea area towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), between 8 and 10 January 2020.

PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED



PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING

Parents of the outgoing M.Sc. Geography students were invited to attend the Parents Teaching Meeting through online platform to seek their feedback on the department. Parents had opined that they observed a substantial improvement in the confidence and learning skills of their children. They gave a very positive response on the faculties, learning methods, and co-curricular activities of the institution.

Jishna T.

- Participated and presented the paper titled “Changing Geopolitical Equations during Corona Pandemic” in One day National online conference on 'Future cities ,Sustainable development and Geospatial technologies' organized by Department of studies and research in Geography of Rani Channama University, Belagavi, Karnataka on May 24th 2020.

INTERNSHIP / DISSERTATION

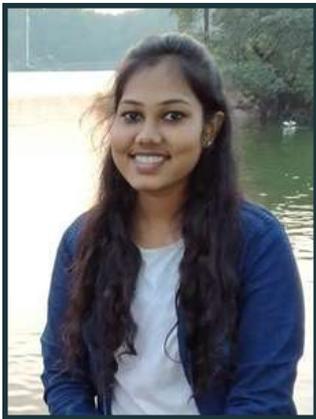
National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad	<p>Swetha S. - Analysis of Wet and Dry Snow at Shyok River Basin of Himalayas using Microwave Remote Sensing Techniques</p> <p>Sai Vignesh - Small City Population Estimation using Remote Sensing and GIS</p> <p>Arathy S. Kumar - Computation the WRSI of Cotton for the Yavatmal district of Maharashtra using the GeoWRSI software</p> <p>Monica. S - Analyzing wet and dry ice using sentinel data for the Antarctic area near Bharath station</p>
<p>Tanishka Sharma - Image Fusion of Microwave and Optical data for delineation of paleochannels in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan</p> <p>Visakh V. - Delineation of Palaeochannels in Rann of Kutch area, Gujarat using Image Fusion of Optical and Microwave data</p>	Regional Remote Sensing Center- West, NRSC - ISRO Jodhpur
National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Ministry of Earth Science, Thiruvananthapuram	Prashant Ghadei - Estimation of major sea water properties in the southern Indian offshore using Landsat 8 – OLI/TIRS images
V Aswath Balaji - Predicting the Sea-Level Trend along the coast of Tamilnadu using Satellite Altimeter	National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Science, Chennai
The French Institute of Pondicherry	Abinaya V. - FISHERCOAST: Coastal transformations and fishermen wellbeing - synthesized perspectives from India and Europe

LOCK FOR THE HOME NOT FOR THE LEARNING

The past three months makes us understand that the situation is considered as worst or good based on our thoughts. Every worst situation has some alternatives which will give hand to overcome and fight towards it. In the beginning, online classes just raised the question of whether it will work or not but for the past three months we learned and adjusted to it. Even it is impossible to attend conferences, seminars, and workshops during normal time but this online platform made it possible. It has proven that lockdown is for doors of our house not for the doors of our brain.



R. Abarna
1st Year M.Sc. Geography



Rasme Allat .V
1st Year M.Sc Geography

CORONAVACATION

The corona virus pandemic has affected all our livelihood, our normal routine, how we work, play, and learn. The day when the lockdown began, my mind is in the polarity of freedom from the university chores and discombobulated feeling to stay indoor for a quite considerable time. Although virtual classes were not as of traditional teaching methods, these long days away from the university made me realize the need for a digital mode of learning. As we had the periodic submission of our GIS (Geographical Information System) practical work, I spent most of my time in weisure. Positively, this “coronavacation” has given me a great deal of time to develop my art skills and made me learn something new. Yet we are facing the

dreadful era of our life span, I felt that it’s an opportunity to spend quality time with our family and also connect with our friends through online sources. I can tell that this is the time one can learn themselves to a broader extent and understand their inner strength.

GEOCLUB ACTIVITIES

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day was celebrated on 5th June 2020. Due to the pandemic, we virtually commemorated this day on Google meet. The programme included events like quiz, poster, and photography competition, emphasizing the theme ‘Global Biodiversity’. This was followed by a panel discussion by students on diverse topics including environmental pollution, the effect of Covid-19 lockdown on the environment, and the role of geospatial techniques in environmental monitoring. Students and Scholars of the department actively participated in the event and exhibited their skills. The certificates were also distributed to the winners of the competition and participants of the panel discussion members.

Quiz Competition Winners: Prashant Ghadei, Abarna R., and Bikash Das
Poster Competition Winner: Rasme Allat
Photography Competition Winner: Shahnaz Basheer



SUPER CYCLONE AMIDST PANDEMIC

Lockdown 4.0 was going on, every day there was a steep increment on the total number of COVID-19 cases in West Bengal. The economic conditions of the people were not good. The demand was more and supply was less, this leads to the optimum market price. People were starving of hunger because they couldn't afford to buy something. Amidst all these, a super cyclone called AMPHAN hit West Bengal coast. It was 20th May 2020; the whole day was raining but moderately. Time passed to evening, the speed of blowing wind increased along with heavy rain, and within no time our electricity got cut off. I could literally hear the sound of the blowing wind. Slowly, the velocity increased more and more. We lost all our network connections.

Sounds of the breaking of glasses, windows, and doors, blowing of tins from houses could also be heard. In these 3-4 hours of the continuous storm, everything ruined. For the next 2 days, we were out of electricity as well as water supply. My district (North 24 Parganas) was one of the badly affected districts of West Bengal. South and North 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, Kolkata were the districts badly hit. Sundarbans were the worst affected areas among all these. After the effect of AMPHAN was very saddening. 84 people died, water clogged everywhere, thousands of trees were uprooted in the gales, electricity and telephone lines brought down, houses flattened, and many more. Still now Sundarbans is recovering. Firstly, this pandemic and above that AMPHAN, economic status of West Bengal just went upside-down. Many people starved for days. AMPHAN is the first super cyclone that Bengalis have experienced and it will remain in our mind and heart for a lifetime



Debanjana Pramanick
I st Year M.Sc.Geography



GEOCLUB ACTIVITIES

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Dr. Ramesh C Dhiman, Ph.D., FNASc, Senior Consultant and Former Scientist 'G', Department of Health Research, Govt. of India delivered a interact session with the students and faculty members of our department on 14.02.2020.



ONLINE CLASSES DURING LOCKDOWN

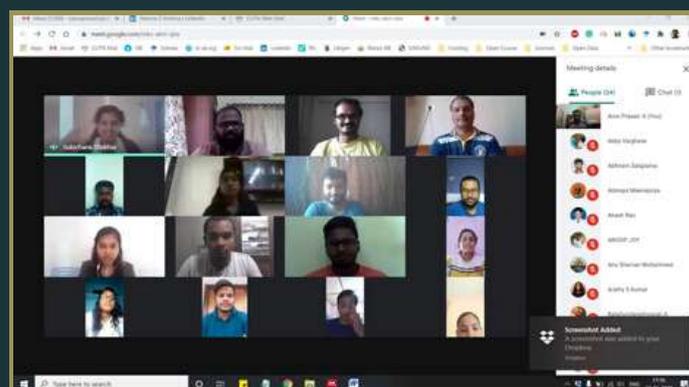
The last couple of months were a challenging phase, for not just the medical and administrative sector but also for other sectors, especially the educational sector. The widely adopted traditional method of teaching became impossible with the Covid-19 pandemic. The students and teachers then opted for online classes to carry through the teaching and learning process. This article is about my experience as a student and then as a teacher during this lockdown. At the beginning of the lockdown, I started with my dissertation connecting to my professor through various online platforms for their guidance. It was very strenuous as network connectivity was a major problem and few issues demanded face to face interactions, which were impossible, and resolving the same became a time taking

process. Somehow, after three months of lockdown with lots of difficulties, I finished my dissertation and then waited for the lifting of lockdown to deliver my viva presentation. Due to the worsening condition of the pandemic, we again sought help from online platforms for giving viva. Again there were network issues and there was a lack of clarity in voice and video, thereby interrupting the assessment which was being conducted with lots of difficulties. Despite several challenges, I finally gave viva for the dissertation. But I always wondered that if there was no lockdown due to this pandemic, the quality of output would have been much better and new interpretations using different data might have been possible. Talking about my experience as a teacher during this lockdown there were a variety of challenges that were faced during different phases. A major challenge for both students and teachers were understanding the software as this was completely different from the traditional setup. Also, getting to know the individual student was the next major challenge. Then selecting a proper teaching aid with limited available resources to deliver effective content as students get distracted and become restless after a certain time therefore making learning enjoyable was the most important concern of all. The antagonist of this whole setup is again network connectivity, as all students do not have a proper network connection, and reaching out to them gets very difficult. Apart from these monitoring every child and their work is another dimension to these challenges, getting the homework for correction and taking their completed notes and its correction too and maintaining a record of all these completed works gets difficult



R. Raja Niruthia
II nd Year M.Sc. Geography

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES



E-FAREWELL AND DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION DAY

The farewell and department foundation day had been celebrated on 27th June 2020 through online mode. It is an unfortunate situation to celebrate these events in remote due to the lockdown, but still, our students and faculty members had supported the event and made the occasion a memorable one. The inaugural address was given by the Head of the Department, Prof. Sulochana Shekhar, followed by faculty members of the department. M.Sc. first-year students had arranged a few competitions for their seniors and faculty members and made the event more interactive and fun-filled. The outgoing batch had opined that they could enjoy thoroughly and thanked the organizers for their effort and love.

too. After corrections, conveying the suggestions and corrections to be made gets difficult too, and following up on that becomes almost impossible most of the time, as students are not interested anymore to work after class hours. Now talking on a wider perspective, this pandemic not only revolutionised the education system, but also the lives of those involved in it. The students feel extremely difficult in adjusting to the new environment, added to this it restricts their physical movement thereby posing physical health risks affecting their eyes and also their mental health, as in the traditional setup of class students could move around after class, play in the corridors and move around to relax after each period which they are completely devoid of now. Thus, relaxing after a class gets difficult to impossible at times. Then talking about the lives of teachers which is rarely spoken by anyone, and the mental pressure they have to handle, which are unimaginably high. The teachers have to plan lessons, activities, teaching aids then executing the plan despite facing a lot of challenges gets very difficult. Apart from these, there are also other problems like, adapting to new technology, economic issues and then also the work pressure is high, as apart from preparations for class several reports are to be prepared, along with worksheets and PowerPoint presentations that can help students and enhance their understanding. These worksheets are scaffoldings that teachers have to prepare so that students can involve themselves and learn easily despite the prevailing condition. Dr. Anshu Deshmukh has pointed out that “Salary deductions, potential layoff and mental blocks towards technology are making it difficult for teachers to put in their best or learn new skills”. But still with huge efforts and hard work teaching and learning process withstands the test of the hour and is still a successful initiative in this pandemic to carry through the teaching-learning process.

ESPERIENZA IN GEOGRAFIA



Bibek Dev
II nd Year M.Sc. Geography

Located on a semi-arid plain at the southern lands of India far away from the bustle of the city. Yaah!! Right amidst the harvested rice fields there exists a place that holds a lot of memory for me named CUTN. A place blessed with beautiful sunrise and sunset views. You look through the horizon and you will find a beauty that one never fails to fall for. The 2

years in this beautiful place and a lot of stories to tell.

Geography is always exciting for me. I consider myself lucky to be a part of the Department of Geography. Starting from the celebration of Freshmen social to observing important dates that hold geographical importance the department has never failed to show excitement. Quizzes, Inter-Departmental competitions, Lectures, Practicals, Field study and Survey activities of all sorts are done here. Well, the tour to Rajasthan and Gujarat was my favourite part. Even the lockdown for coronavirus has failed to stop our enthusiasm. With the help of online resources, various events such as Ocean Day, VIVA presentation, Parents-teachers meet, and Farewell was organised.

As this journey has come to an end. I will really miss this beautiful place and the people. Last but not least I want to thank my teachers for their guidance and friends for being a part of my Post-Graduation journey.



Parshant Ghadei
II nd Year M.Sc. Geography

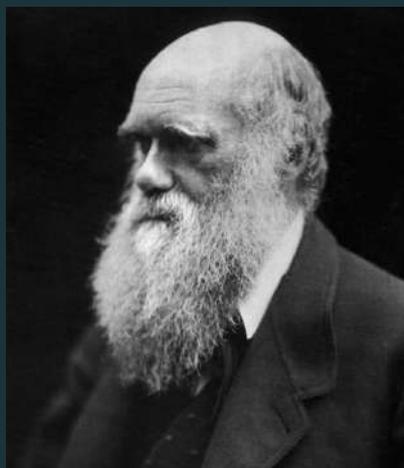
Geographically, the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) is located in a peaceful environment and full of greenery. The University provides good library facilities, a Wi-Fi campus, and ample scope in both sports and other cultural activities to the students. By recognising the importance of geospatial technology, the department developed a well-equipped GIS and Cartography labs. The experienced faculties in the department taught us the practical courses clearly by the fullest utilisation of lab resources. Along

with regular classes, the department has conducted GeoClub events every week through which all the students, research scholars, and faculty members use to meet together. There were many cultural activities, quiz competitions, panel discussions on the topic of current/upcoming events held in the past two years which are related to our course of study. Despite COVID-19 lockdowns, the department is well connected with students through many online platforms. We had events like World Environment Day (5th June), World Ocean Day (8th June), parents meeting, and lastly farewell to us via virtual platforms. I had an opportunity to participate in the South Zone Inter-University Chess Tournament (Men) held at Manipal, Mangalore from 04.12.2018 to 07.12.2018 during my second Semester. It was really a nice experience to meet many students from various Universities across the country. Really, I enjoyed myself a lot in the last two years of my M.Sc. Geography at CUTN.

DARWIN DAY

On 14.02.2020 Geo Club celebrated Darwin day with various activities. A game session was there that is a word game related to Darwin. Followed by the screening of two documentaries, one completely showing the life history of Darwin, and the next one was related to the environment, mainly showing the survival of the fittest. After all the students were separated into two groups and asked, to make some questions regarding the documentary questions were interchanged

between the groups and took the answers. Finally, the day ends with a small narration about Darwin.



GEOCLUB ACTIVITIES



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

Language plays a major role in the way we think and communicate. To stress the importance of mother language and to understand the diverse culture of our nation, the GeoClub had organized the International Mother Language Day celebration on 21.02.2020. The programme was started by taking signatures from all the members who are being invited to their language. This was followed by some introduction about the day. Thereafter a game was played related to different languages across the world, which was proved to be very interesting and exciting to all of the members present there. It concluded by our honourable faculty members by sharing their views regarding this auspicious occasion and the very importance of this day.



Vishak K V
II nd Year M.Sc. Geography

During my third semester at CUTN, the department has organised a study tour to northwest India, which allowed me to explore the western part of India which fascinated me by its culture and monuments. I visited the famous Sun City Jodhpur, Rajasthan during this trip. Though I didn't feel that much attached to Jodhpur at that time, after exactly two months I fell in love with the city, the blue gullies, lovely people, the golden winter

sunsets which light up the streets in the evenings, culture and food, etc. In the fourth semester, we have a choice to do the project within the University or at any reputed institutes outside. I got selected in the Regional Remote Sensing Centre-West (RRSC-W), one of the pioneering institutes in my field of interest, located in Jodhpur. It was a great opportunity to work under the ISRO-EOAM project. My responsibility in the project was to delineate paleochannels in the Rann of Kutch area, Gujarat using image fusion of optical and microwave data. During the winters (December to mid of March) in Rajasthan, the temperature may go as low as 4°C in the night to a maximum of 21°C in the day time. The winter sunsets are not to be missed in Jodhpur, as the sunsets will light up the gullies in golden colour, which is pleasing to the eyes and soul. I observed that the winter sunsets were more beautiful than the summer, and every day the sky never failed to put up a show during the sunset time. The RRSC-W has suspended all work for two weeks from March 20th and I was asked to go back to my native place. As travelling was a huge risk at that time I stayed back in Jodhpur hoping that the institute will open after two weeks and I can finish the dissertation. Meanwhile, my external guide has sent us all the results that I have done back in the lab and with that I have finished the project report. As I have entered the month of May summer heat started increasing day by day. In the day time, temperature went to a maximum of 46°C and drops as low as 27°C in nights. On few days, convectional rain occur that lasts for 5 minutes but it was more than enough to manage scorching sun of Rajasthan. On May 15th the RRSC-W started working in a regulated manner but interns were not allowed. As things were getting really bad I have planned to leave Jodhpur at the earliest. I booked a ticket in a special train from New Delhi to Thiruvananthapuram via Jaipur and boarded train on 26th May night. I bid goodbye and best wishes to the friends and left Jodhpur. The train journey was safe and after two days of train travel I reached my place on 29 May morning. After disclosed all the details with the health workers at the railway station, I was room quarantined at my home for 28 days, and everything went fine and twice the health department checked for COVID-19 and both the tests came negative. The result was a great relief for me as well for my family and friends. Now I am waiting for a perfect day to leave home, go to the beachside, and see the sun setting in the Arabian Sea, which I have missed for the past six months.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a global day on 8th March celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year's theme is, "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights". The GeoClub was celebrated women's day on 28-02-2020 along with a documentary screening and followed by a brief talk on women and why we need to support women and girls in science by the research scholars and the faculties of the department.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

The Geo Club has celebrated World Ocean Day on 08.06.2020 through online. The main aim to celebrate this day is to spread awareness and sensitize students to concern about problems faced by our blue planet's present condition. The theme for the celebration was "Innovations for a Sustainable Oceans". The day is marked in a variety of ways, including screening of documentaries, panel discussions, and also a poster and photography competition. The panel discussion was on 'Status and Action Plans for Ocean Conservation in India'. The google meet is a challenging one because of the technical glitches but it is a get-together for all the members in the club around the country.

Poster Competition Winner:

Rasme Allat

Photography Competition Winner:

Shahnaz Basheer

GEOCLUB ACTIVITIES



Let us join together over Google Meet in Celebration of

The World Oceans

"Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean"
8th June 2020

Inaugural at 5:30 pm
Screening of Documentaries: 5:35 – 4:00 pm
Panel Discussion – 4 pm
Poster/Photo competition on topic 'Threats to oceanic biodiversity'
Announcement of results – 4:30 pm
Concluding Remarks
Vote of Thanks

Send your poster / Photograph at geoclub@gmail.com by 19th June
Participation Certificates will be provided to all.

Organizing Team
Prof. Subhiksha Shekhar
Dean and Head
Dr. Sakthi Grover
Dr. X. Kalathiraman
Dr. E. Venkatesham
Dr. Arun Prasad X.
Mr. Sankararaman
Mr. Balasubramanian

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU
NEELAKUDI, THIRUVARUR - 610 005

CREATIVE CORNER

A beautiful world provided me a shelter;
The environment and people were even better;
Tuning myself, I got the best fitters;
Surprising experiences made me brighter;
Two years of adventure, I started to glitter;
For those searching goals, CUTN is always the light-er!!!



Aswath Balaji V
II nd Year M.Sc. Geography



Akula Ajay Karthik
I st Year M.Sc. Geography

Dirt of you, trash on me
Can't you let your mother breath properly?
Development of you, destruction on me
Can't you let your mother sleep properly?
Mines of you, wounds of mine
Can't you let your mother heal properly?
Land to all, authority of you
Can't you let all species live peacefully?
Anger of mine, masks on you
Sorry son, mother nature watching desperately!

GEO VISTA