



BULLETIN

Department of Geography

Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya
Haladhar Bhuyan Path, Kalongpar, Nagaon, Pin-782001, Assam (India)



Volume I

August 2023

The Department of Geography has started its journey on 29th August 2022. The department was established to cater to the needs of the aspiring students of Geography who are interested in higher education and research. The department is striving towards academic excellence as well as improving departmental facilities and teaching aids. The department is actively engaging in fieldwork to develop conceptual, cognitive, procedural and social gains. Within one year of journey the department has got significant repute within the University as well as in the State.

OUR VISION

1. To uplift the department as an eminent centre of geographical education and research in the academic world.
2. By advancing the frontiers of geographical knowledge, contributing to policy discussions, and engaging with local and global communities.
3. To produce graduates who are not only well-versed in geographic theories and methodologies but also possess a global perspective, ethical awareness, and a commitment to sustainable practices.

OUR MISSION

1. The department is committed to promoting excellence in teaching and research in geographical education, while instilling a sense of curiosity and critical thinking.
2. Empower students with the knowledge and skills through innovative approaches to learning, interdisciplinary collaboration and application of advance geospatial technology.
3. To address the emerging global concern of climate change, disaster management and environmental planning.

Courses Offered

1. Two-year M.A./ M.Sc. Programme (CBCS-based Semester System)
2. Ph.D. Programme

Specialization : Regional Planning and Development, Fluvial Geomorphology, Geoinformatics, Geography of Health, Tourism Development, Social Geography

Student strengths : So far the department has 90 students in post graduate programme (1st and 3rd semester) and 8 Ph.D research scholars.

Thrust Areas of Research

The department is in the infant stage of research. First batch of Ph. D programme has started during March, 2023. The scholars have started working in the following contemporary issues of geographical research-

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| a) Water resource management | e) Deforestation |
| b) Urban planning and development | f) Land use and land cover change (LULC) and |
| c) Agriculture geography | g) Tourism geography. |
| d) Rural development | |

From the desk of HoD



I have never been more excited for the Department of Geography, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya is promulgate the first bulletin. Time does fly. It is the eight months of the year of 2023. It is the eleventh months of my leadership in this department, within these months many things have happened. Myself and my colleagues are exhilarated by the meetings, events, fieldtrips, and project. I would like to thank my colleague

Dr. Sourav Saha for being an excellent potential colleague and Project Director. The first volume of the bulletin showcases the various activities of the Department from 29th August 2022 to 29th August 2023. With immense pleasure I take this opportunity to thank the management team for their support in various academic activities to the Department of Geography and congratulate our colleagues and students for the one-year academic achievements of the Department.

Dr. Markynti Swer

Assistant Professor and HoD (i/c)

Students' Club :

Apart from the class room teaching-learning approach the department has formed three clubs to encourage students in different environmental and social activities.

Green Volunteers' Club :

The Green Volunteers' Club (GVC) was formed to inspire students to involve in social forestry work, tree plantation programme, micro-environment conservation initiative. With the initiative Green Volunteers' Club students of the department have planted around 80 tree sapling in the permanent campus of the MSSV on 16th December, 2022. They also took part in a mangrove plantation drive and planted 1000 tree saplings in a fringe village of Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

River Club :

The students of this club will be engaging in river site cleaning, awareness campaign, death channel rejuvenation initiative, documentation, photography and article writing pertaining to rivers and wetlands. During the 2022-2023 the rivers club has taken its first initiative called Kolongor Pare Pare to study the riverine ecology of Kolong river and the impact of solid waste disposal on it.

Socio-cultural Club: This Club was formed to offer a chance to involvement in social and cultural activities. The members of this club will involve in awareness programme on various social and cultural issues, exposure to the different tribal communities of northeast India, providing helping hand during natural hazards such as flood, cyclone, etc. They have organized an awareness programme on ‘Women Health and Hygiene’ on 5th April, 2023.

Departmental Activities during 2022-2023

Attended Seminar on Climate Change

A team consisting of 4 students guided by Dr. Sourav Saha attended a Seminar on Climate Change at Raj Bhavan, Guwahati on 12th September, 2023. Hon’ble Governor Professor Jagdish Mukhi highlighted the changing scenario of climate and its impact at global, national and regional level during his inaugural lecture. The team got an exposure to the valuable lecture of Prof. Arup Kumar Sarma (IIT Guwahati) on climate change, modelling, impact analysis and sustainable management strategies in North East India.



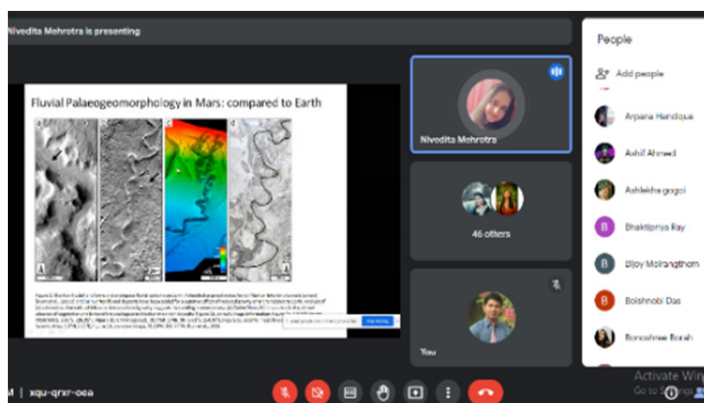
Attended lecture programme at MSSV, Guwahati:

A team consisting 10 of students from the department under the guidance of Miss Dhritisha Saikia attended a lecture on “Impact of Climate Change on Livelihood, Water Resource and State Economy” at MSSV Guwahati campus on 17th November 2022. They got the opportunity to hear from an eminent scholar Dr. Nilanthi Samaranyake, Research Programme Director, CNA, Alington, Virginia (USA) on issue of climate change and its impacts.



International Lecture on Applied Geomorphology :

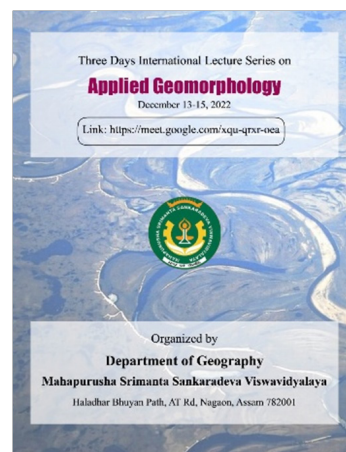
The Department of Geography, MSSV organized a three days online International Lecture Series on Applied Geomorphology during 13-15th December, 2022. There were seven experts from different Universities of the country (Kazi Nazrul University, Nagaland University, Vidyasagar University, Birbal Sahani Institute of Palaeoscience (BSIP), Gauhati University) and abroad (Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and University of Manchester, United Kingdom). They delivered lecture on various aspect of applied geomorphology such as Reconstruction and Palaeoclimatic significance of Glaciers, Methods in Applied Geomorphology, Aspects of Palaeogeomorphology and its implications on Palaeoclimatic studies, Flood Hazards Management, etc. Around 80 participants including U.G and P.G students and faculty members from different colleges and universities actively participated in this lecture series.



Invited lecture :

Prof. Ashok Kumar Bora, Department of Geography, Gauhati University delivered an invited lecture on i) Environment, Development and Sustainability and ii) Hazards and Disaster management on 29th March, 2023 at the department.

Mr. Gaurab Pratim Hazarika, Assistant Professor, Department of Education was invited on 30th May, 2023 to take an interactive session with students of 2nd semester on gratitude practice and mental health. He consulted about the human mind, relationship of conscious and sub-conscious minds.



Tree plantation drive :

In collaboration with National Service Scheme (NSS) unit MSSV, the department has organized tree plantation drive in the permanent campus of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya at Atuwatika, Raidongia on 16th December, 2022. The students planted around eighty tree saplings along the main entrance of the campus. The programme was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Registrar, Prof Mrinal Kumar Bora, Deputy Registrar (i/c) cum co-ordinator, NSS unit Dr. Bichitra Bikash, NSS officer Mr. Yuva Boro and faculty members of the department.



Observation of World Wetland Day:

On 2nd February, 2023 the department has observed world wetland day to create awareness about the ecological significance of wetlands. Focal theme of the programme was - "It's time for Wetland Restoration". An interactive session among students and faculties of the department. The faculty members and students shared their views and experiences on the degradation of wetland ecology of their localities. A short documentary film was screened on Deepor Beel Bird sanctuary to understand the impact of urban growth of Guwahati city on wetland ecology.



Kolongor Pare Pare (Walk along the bank of river Kolong):

The river Kolong, the soul of Nagaon districts is flowing through the heart of the Nagaon town. Being located at the adjacent to the Kolong river, the institution has been enjoying the scenic beauty of the

river. However, very recently the ecology of river has been degrading due to urban waste disposal. The students of the department have closely observed the dying condition of the river. The faculty members and the students of the department realised the urgency of Kolong rejuvenation and for that the study of the basin and ecological condition of the river course is necessary. With this objective the rivers club of the department has taken a long-term initiative called Kolongor Pare Pare to understand the ecology of the river basin and find out some restoration measures for its sustainability. The entire basin of Kolong was drawn based on topographical sheet. The first journey of this programme “Kolongor Pare Pare” was started on 10th February, 2023 at Tinisuti, Garmari village and after walk about 6 km along the bank. At the confluence of Kolong and Kapili river the students collected garbage from the river bed.



Observation of World Water Day:

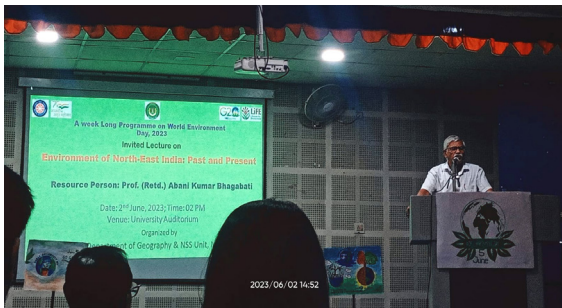
The department of Geography in collaboration with the department of Political Science celebrated World Water Day on 22nd March, 2023. The theme of the programme was ‘accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis’ which was the focal theme of 2023 World Water Day of United Nation (UN). Dr. Sourav Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography expatiated the issues of climate change and global water security in his deliberation. Students from both the departments participated and spoke on the issues of hydro-politics, water crisis and water management of the country as well as world. The event was honoured by Prof. Mridul Hazarika, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mrinal Kumar Borah, Registrar and Sjt. Babul Bora, Director (Finance and Planning), MSSV with their presence and valuable words. A group of students from the department of geography performed a mime-act to demonstrate the misuse of water and its impact in our daily life.



Celebration of World Environment Day:

Department of Geography in collaboration with NSS unit organized a week long programme from 30th May to 5th June, 2023 to commemorate the World Environment Day. Several activities such as campus cleanliness drive, mobile photography competition, bicycle rally, tree plantation drive, etc. were conducted. A bicycle rally was organised on 3rd June with a group of 25 participants. On 5th June around 70 tree saplings were planted in the permanent campus





at Atuwatika, Raidongia with the support of a Kaziranga based NGO ‘Naturalist for Rehabilitation of Snakes and Birds (NRSB)’. Besides, an invited lecture was organised for environmental awareness. Prof. (Retd.) Abani Kumar Bhagabati, Department of Geography, Gauhati University given lecture on the topic ‘*Environment of N.E India: Present and Past*’.

Field study to Sundarban:

The field study of M.A / M.Sc. second-semester was conducted in Sunderban delta, West Bengal from 3rd to 11th April, 2023 under the guidance of Dr. Markynti Swer, Dr. Sourav Saha and Miss Dhritisha Saikia. The team consisting of 35 students visited Sundarban Tiger Reserve and two fringe villages (Pakhirala and Chargheri) of Sundarban Tiger Reserve. Students conducted household survey at Chargheri village to study the impact of climate change on food security and livelihoods of marginal farmers of Sundarban delta. During this visit the team got exposure of urban development in Kolkata Metropolitan City and visited some important places such as National Museum, Victoria Memorial, etc. As we stayed at Navaprajanma State Youth Hostel, Salt Lake City students also got the opportunity to visit the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium).



Tree Plantation:

On 5th April, 2023 the students of the department have planted 1000 Mangrove tree sapling at Chargheri village, Sundarban, West Bengal in collaboration with “The Mangrove Man” Sri Uma Shankar Mandal, Purvasha Eco Helpline Society and SUVIDHA, an Uttarakhand based NGO. They mobilized the local women to join the plantation drive.



Distribution of sanitary napkins:



Awareness programme on ‘Women Health and Hygiene’ was organized by socio-cultural club of the department on 5th April, 2023 and sanitary napkins were distributed among the women of Chargheri village, Sundarban.

Field study to Jamunamukh :

A team consisting of 3 students -Leeza Phukan, Tamanna Atia, Borasha Rani Bora of Generic Elective (Geography) conducted a field study at Jamunamukh, Nagaon district on 28th May, 2023. The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of flood and bank erosion of Kapili river on the livelihood and food security in the villages of Jamunamukh area. Field observation, transect walk, focus group discussion and household survey was conducted at Kumbhirdubi village.



Departmental wall magazine:



The students of department prepared a wall magazine named 'SAPTADWEPA' to display their literary, creative and artistic talents. The word 'saptadwepa' consist of two words 'sapta' (seven) and 'dwepa' (island). Thus saptadwepa refers to mother earth which is consist of seven continents. Miss Sudiksha Bora and Miss Labhita Sahariah were involved in art and designing and editing respectively. The first edition of saptadwepa was inaugurated on 2nd March, 2023 by Dr. Bichitra Bikash, Assistant Registrar (Academic) i/c.

Hand written magazine:

The department has taken an initiative to publish a hand written magazine titled 'UJJIBAN' (means rebirth). First volume of this magazine was published on 2nd March, 2023. Miss Labhita Sahariah was the editor, Miss Riya Rajkhowa and Miss Sudiksha Bora were joint editor and cover page designer respectively.



Students' Achievements during Varsity Week, 2023

Best Creative Artist: - **Sudiksha Bora**

SPORTS

Badminton: - 1st Runners up: - Gyanjyoti Bora

Carrom (Double): -1st Runners up :

Mandeep Buragohain & Dipjyoti Gogoi

Sprint: - 1st Position: - Parishmita Tamuly

2nd Position: -Darshana Kakoty

Shot put: - 3rd Position: - Lilawati Rabha

Kabaddi (Girls): - 1st Position

Cricket (Boys): - 1st Runner up

CULTURAL EVENTS

Jikir song: - 2nd Position

Modern Dance: - 3rd Position

Mono Act: - 1st Position: - Karabi Kakati

LITERARY AND ART

Extempore Speech: - 2nd Position:

Riya Rajkhowa & Karabi Kakati

Poem Writing (Assamese): - 1st Position

Karabi Kakati

Debate Competition: - 2nd Position

Riya Rajkhowa

News Reading: - 3rd position- Riya Rajkhowa

Story writing: - 3rd Position- Labhita Sahariah

Poster Making: -2nd Position- Sudiksha Bora

Portrait Competition: - 1st Position

Sudiksha Bora

Publication and other academic activities of faculty members, 2023

Dr. Sourav Saha

Assistant Professor



Paper published

2022: Saha, S; Bhagabati, A.K and Thakur, R: Assessment of Drinking Water Accessibility and Quality in the Indo-Bhutan Himalayan Foothill Region of Assam, India, *Nature Environment and Pollution Technology*, Vol.21(3), 1052-1071.

Paper presented in Seminars /Conferences

2022: *Community Managed Dong-Bandh Irrigation System in the Himalayan Foothill Region of Assam* in International Seminar On Essence of Geography: What, Where, Why and How at Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University.

2023: *Mountain Agro-ecosystem of North-East India: Tradition and Transition* in 30th Biennial Conference of NEIGS cum ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar on “In Quest of a Sustainable Earth” at Sibsagar Girls’ College

Lecture delivered as resource person

2022: Seed Sovereignty in *PURNATA*, Department of Education, Mahapurusha Srimanata Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon

2023: Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture in the Eastern Himalayan Region of India, presented in International Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability at Dhing College, Nagaon,

2023: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Community-based Natural Resource Management in Northeast India: Changes & Sustainability in a State Level Seminar at Moirabari College, Morigaon.

Research Project

2023: Received a minor research project titled “Vanishing Springs and their Impacts on Water Security and Rural Livelihoods in the Hill Districts of Assam in the Context of Climate Change: A Socio-Hydrological Perspective” from Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi (File Number 02/169/2022-23/RP/MN, dated 10 March 2023).

Miss Dhritisha Saikia

Assistant Professor



Paper published

2023: Utilization of Chemical Fertilizers (NPK) in Agriculture: A comparative analysis between Assam and Maharashtra, India, *International Journal of Advance and Applied Research*. Vol. 10 (3), pp. 690-695.

Seminars /Conferences attended

2023: Role of Traditional Knowledge and Folk Culture of Mising Community Assam on 13th May ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on “Socio-Economic Status of SC/ST Population in India and Human Resource Development” at

Vivekananda College, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.