



Chowgule Geographer Rocks



Mr. Anirudh Bhat receiving award for getting 1st position in "Talkathone"

Mr. Anirudh Bhat, a student of third year BSC Geography was awarded 1st place in the category 'Talkathone' in GDP talks (Rural Youth Rising) organized by G.D.P foundation, Goa. This competition (from 1st February 2021 to 21st February 2021) was a platform to encourage students to bring out real time solution to issues and challenges faced with respect to Agriculture, Healthcare and education.

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Prerna Diwas Celebration on Science Day

The department of Geography, as a part of Science Day, organized three events on the occasion of **Prerna Diwas Celebration** on 5th March 2021. The events were both for the students as well as for faculty of the department. The events were:

1. Extempore
2. Debate and
3. Special lecture.

In "An Extempore Two-Minute Talk" contest, Nine students participated in the event. **Mr. Aaron Dev Jose (FYBSc), Mr. Anirudh Bhat (TYBSc) and Ms. Chandani Thakkar (FYBSc)** won the first, second and third place respectively. In debate competition topics were given in advanced and it was held on both: offline & online.

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Department of Geography conducted workshop on use of Epicollect 5 for heritage mapping

The Department of Geography conducted a workshop on use of *Epicollect 5* for Heritage mapping on 17th February, 2021 for the students of third year BA Geography. This workshop was hands on training where the students can use technology for field data collection by using *Epicollect 5* tool which is computer as well as android phone compatible. At the inaugural function Professor & Head of the department, **Nandkumar Sawant** gave an overview on why students need to know technology which focus on accuracy, time efficiency and technology enabled. Mr. Deepak Kumbhar, Assistant Professor, introduced the features and use of *Epicollect 5*. In the second session, the students formulated questions and subsequently as field based training the students were divided into groups to collect information within the campus.



Source: <https://five.epicollect.net/more-collect>

Epicollect 5 Data collection mobile and web application.

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Editorial - Can maps deceive us? -Anirudh Bhat (TYBSc, Geography)

In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, maps have been the most important tool for the general public and scientists in highlighting the key data like the number of cases or the infection rates. This pandemic has shown us that maps can be white or black depending on who makes it and for what purpose. A particularly good example of this scenario were the maps which showcased the airline routes around the world as potential ways in which the virus spread. Many media sites displayed maps showing air routes which had dense coverage of travel in some areas. This created panic among some who assumed that the virus was automatically spreading in regions where travel had dense coverage, even though we now know that the way the virus spread was uneven even if it spread relatively rapidly globally. Subtle changes can be made to maps that can deceive or misrepresent critical data. For instance, smoothing data, changing colour hue, or classifying data in a given way can also create small deceptions. Our tendency is often to let our perceptions help interpret the maps for us, but the best choice as readers of maps is to carefully look at a map and ask basic questions about its data. Maps are both a great tool for telling us an important message using a minimal description, but they can also be a part of false narratives or misleading information. As law abiding citizens, we should expect scientists and our government to present accurate data as well as clear ways in which that data was interpreted; however, deceptive maps are often made not on purpose but by poor choices of mapmakers. We, as users of maps, have a responsibility to be critical before taking in the information presented before us.

Uttarakhand Flood: A rude wake up call

The disaster that unfolded on February 7, 2021 in the higher reaches of Uttarakhand after a portion of a 'hanging glacier' on the slopes of Nanda Devi broke off and triggered flash floods strikes yet another environmental alarm bell for India's Himalayan regions. The glacial collapse, near Raini village above Joshimath in the state's Chamoli district, sent a wall of water and debris down the Dhauliganga and Rishiganga tributaries of the Alaknanda river, causing significant destruction along the route, including damage to major hydro-power projects. The devastation evoked memories of the June 2013 flash floods in the state, caused by a cloudburst near the Kedarnath shrine, which left nearly 700 dead. The Cause of the incident, the scenario being most talked about was what geologists like to call a GLOF, or glacial lake outburst flood. It is reference to flooding caused downstream due to a breach in a glacial lake. GLOF event are not unusual, but their impact depends on the size of proglacial lake that burst, and location. The devastating flash flood in the Himalayan state highlights the urgent need to protect the region's fragile environment and review unbridled development activity.



Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/environment/story/20210222-a-rude-wake-up-call-1768540-2021-02-13>



Faculty Participation

I. **Mr. Ashwini Ashish**, Assistant Professor, attended one day National Seminar on “**Water Resource Management Using Geospatial Technology (WRMGT-2021)**”, organized by Department of Geography, Rajarshi Shahu Mahavidyalaya (Autonomous), Latur Maharashtra on 18th February, 2021.

II. **Dr. Sanjay D. Gaikwad**, Assistant Professor, participated in two-day workshop on “**Research Grant Writing**” organized by the Directorate of Higher Education, Goa in association with Government College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Quepem, Goa on 16th & 17th March, 2021.

III. He also participated in workshop cum training on “**Natural Products from Marine Biore-sources**”(Virtual Mode), organized by CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, during 30-31st March, 2021.

IV. **Dr. Sanjay Gaikwad** and **Dr. Anil Yedage** participated in a National Webinar on “**Recent trends of Space Technology in Geographical Science**” organized by symbiosis Institute of Geoinformatics from 1st February, 2021 to 2nd February, 2021.

IV. **Dr. Anil Yedage** was invited as the resource person for a National seminar on “**Water Resources Management Using Geospatial Technology**” conducted by Rajarshi Shahu Mahavidyalaya (Autonomous), Latur, Maharashtra on 18th February, 2021.

Resource Person at National Level

I. **Prof. Nandkumar Sawant**, Head, department of Geography was invited as the resource person for the one week Faculty Development Programme in “**Teacher Education: Learning Outcomes and Educational Reforms- Pedagogy, Assessment and quality**” from 1st February to 14th February, 2021 conducted by UGC-HRDC, Rajasthan University, Jaipur. He delivered three sessions namely:

- Using Blooms to Map Course outcomes.
- Problem based learning a method for student centric learning.
- Learning Outcome Based Education (LOBE).

II. He was also the resource person for “**Initiatives for Teaching-Learning Excellence in Environment Studies**” FDP organized by Gyan-Ganga, An initiative of the Commissionerate, College Education, Govt. of Rajasthan Jaipur, Rajasthan for the Faculty Development Programme from 1st march to 6th March, 2021. He spoke on **Problem Based Method for understanding environmental issues** on 3rd march 2021.

III. Four Faculty Members **Prof. Nandkumar Sawant, Dr. Nandini Vaz Fernandes, Shri. Deepak Kumbhar and Shri. Stephen Dias** were invited as the Resource Person for the workshop on “**Wildlife Management through GIS and GPS Technology**” conducted by the Goa Forest Department, Govt. of Goa on 19th February, 2021.



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'Talkathone'

He presented a solution to build a system integrated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) which could bring about a change in the way waste was being collected and disposed. This idea was seen fit to be awarded the 1st place in the category. He said “*I am grateful to the GDP foundation for having given my idea a platform for implementation*”.

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Purna Diwas Celebration

Final results of debate are as follows:

- 1st – 1) **Vikas Kapale** (MSc Geoinformatics)
2) **Amogh Kamat** (MSc Geoinformatics)
- 2nd – 1) **Sahil Sahil Muzawar** (Ty Bsc)
2) **Chloe Furtado** (Ty Bsc)
- 3rd – 1) **Aaron Dev Jose** (Fy Bsc)
2) **Chandhni Takkar** (Fy Bsc)

Guest Lecture on “**Geospatial Techniques in Day-to-Day Life**” by **Dr. Surendra Thakur Dessai**, Head, Department of Geography, Gogate-Jogalekar College, Ratnagiri was also organized for students and faculty of the department.

A dense layer of smoke and dust, part of the greater **Asian Brown cloud** over the Indo-Gangatic plains, visible from space.



Image source: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn10722-brown-haze-over-india-harming-rice-harvest/>

Departmental Activities

I. Under Industry-Academia Linkage **Dr. Sneha Bhagwat**, Ayurvedic Doctor, a Transformational Speaker & Founder of Oorja Wellness Centre, delivered a talk on “**Tailor Your Career in Harmony with Your Body**” on 22nd February, 2021. She emphasized that well-being is an important component of human body and therefore it is important to understand your attitude and aptitude to create better work environment. When work places are becoming stressful and competitive it is individuals who have to develop the right attitude for a balanced career growth.

II. Workshop on “**Applications of Course Outcomes plus Curriculum Designing**” for the post graduate faculty was conducted on 13th March, 2021. All the post Graduate faculty of the department attended the workshop. **Prof. Nandkumar Sawant** was the Resource person.

The Asian Brown Cloud Over China

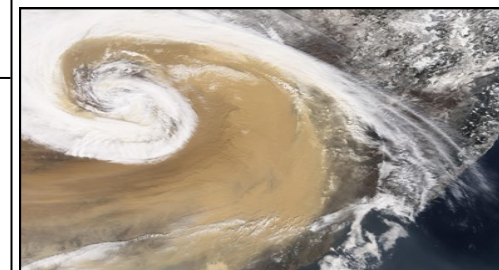


Image Source: https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_989.html

Editorial Team

Teacher-in-Charge & Editor: **Mr. A. Ashish**

Any feedback, Please email to geography@chowgules.ac.in