ANNUAL REPORT: 2011-12

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

1. Name of the Head of the Department:
   A.C. Mohapatra (till forenoon of 16th December 2011) and
   Zahid Husain Qureshi (since afternoon of 16th December 2011 onward)
   Telephone Numbers: 0364- 272-3202, 272-3209, (O), 09463105768(M)
   Email ID: husainzahid1@rediffmail.com; ZHQureshi@nehu.ac.in

2. Thrust Areas of Research in the Department: (i) Geomorphology with focus on Regional and Applied Geomorphology, (ii) Environmental studies with focus on Climatology and Climate Change, Water Resources and Hydrology, Biogeography and Biodiversity and Watershed Management Studies, (iii) Regional Development and Regional Planning, (iv) Researches on Social and Cultural Diversity of the North-Eastern Region of India with a special focus on Tribal Development, and (v) GIS and Remote Sensing applications in Environment and Land Use Planning.

3. Brief Statement of Academic Activities: As many as three candidates from the Department qualified in the UGC NET under Lectureship category. The department, apart from its usual teaching programme, organized a series of lectures delivered by eminent geographers under SAP-DRS II, namely, Prof. H. Ramachandran from Delhi University, Delhi delivered lectures on Research Methods in Geography, Urban Planning and droughts in India; Prof. B. S. Butola from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on Research in Human Geography; Prof B. K. Misra from Ravenshaw University, Cuttack on Models of Resource Management and Prof S. Subbiah from University of Madras, Channai conducted workshop on Research Paper Writing. The Department organized an International Seminar and Cultural Expo on ‘Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods among Tribes in Hilly Areas’ during the year under review. A Refresher Course for the College and University teachers was also organized by the Department under the aegis of the ASC, NEHU. The faculty remained active in publication of research papers in a number of international and national journals as well as under book chapters. Most of the faculty members attended and presented research papers in national and international Conferences/ Seminars. A number of research scholars also attended and presented research papers in national and international Conferences and Seminars. As many as four research scholars were awarded Ph. D. degree. The research scholars of the Department took initiative to start a forum in the name of ‘NEHU Geographical Research Forum’ with an objective of sharing, exchanging and improving intellectual capacity. The forum organised a number of talks on contemporary issues of geographical significance. The Department has Geographical Society of North-Eastern Hill Region (India) which publishes the journal “Hill Geographer” regularly.
4. Faculty

4.1 Professors:
A. C. Mohapatra, M.A., M. Phil. (JNU) Ph. D. (NEHU) (Regional Development and Planning, Philosophy and Methodology in Geography, Environmental Issues)

Surendra Singh, M.A., Ph. D. (Meerut) (Agricultural Geography, Area Planning and Quantitative Techniques)

B.S.Mipun, M.A. (JNU), Ph.D. (NEHU) (Agricultural Geography, RS and GIS)

D. K. Nayak, M.A. M. Phil, Ph. D. (JNU) (Social and Population Geography, Gender and Health related Issues)

Z. H. Qureshi, M.A. Ph. D (M. L. Sukhadia University) (Geomorphology, Environment, Ecology and RS)

4.2 Associate Professors:

L. Cajee, M. Sc., Ph. D. (NEHU) (Biogeography, Geography of Tourism and Quantitative Techniques)


P. G. Momin, M.A. (JNU), M. Phil (NEHU) (Climate and Ecology)

4.3 Assistant Professors:
P. K. Ryngnga, M.A. (NEHU), M. Phil, Ph.D. (JNU) (Urban and Regional Development, RS and GIS)

S. Purkayastha, M.A, Ph.D. (NEHU) (Population Geography)

5. Student Intake:

5.1 Enrolment Capacity: MA/M.Sc – 38

M.Phil. and Ph. D.: Variable

5.2 Actual Admission

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Pranjit K. Sarma: Habitat Suitability for Rhino and Utilization Pattern in Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park of Assam, Supervisor- Professor. B.S. Mipun

K.C. Lalmalsawmzauva: Reproductive Health in Mizoram with special reference to Champhai District, Supervisor- Professor D.K. Nayak

B.C. Nath: Assessment of Irrigation Requirement and Potential for Crop Diversification in Lower Kameng Basin, Supervisor- Professor- Z.H. Qureshi

C. Ramnnehzauva: Distribution and Types of Water Sources in Aizawl City, Supervisor- Professor Z.H Qureshi

7. Courses Conducted

7.2. M.A./M.Sc.

Semester I: Geomorphology, Climatology, Economic Geography, Geographical Thought-I, Quantitative Techniques in Geography-I, Cartography-I (Practical).

Semester II: Geography of India, Principles of Ecology (open course) Bio-Geography (open course), Population and Settlement Geography, Geographical Thought-II, Quantitative Techniques in Geography-II, Cartography-II (Practical), Geography of North-East India (open course).

Semester III: Regional Development and Planning, Social and Cultural Geography (open course), Environment and Development (open course), Research Methodology, Computer Aided Cartography (Practical), remote Sensing and GIS (Practical).


7.4. M.Phil./Ph.D.

Research Methodology in Geography, Advanced Tools and Techniques in Geographical Researches, Contemporary Geomorphic Issues in North-East India, Geohydrological Processes of Extreme Humid Tropics; Population, Development and Environment, Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques for Agricultural Geography, Contemporary Issues in Urban Development with Special Reference to India, Geographical Perspectives in Cultural Tourism.
8. Study Tours/Field Trips of Students

Socio-Economic and Physical surveys at Umden, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya were conducted by the M.A./M.Sc. Second Semester students for 15 days during Jan. 18 – Feb 1, 2012 under Course GEOC 401; Teachers In-Charge: Dr. L. Cajee.

All India Study Tour was conducted at Chandigarh and Shimla Region during 6th - 20th February, 2012, under Course No. GEOC 201; Teachers-in-Charge: Professor Z. H. Qureshi

9. Seminars/Conferences/Symposia/Extension Programme:

9.1 Organised

Two-day workshop on “Research Writing”, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong under SAP-DRS-II Programme, March 26-27, 2012 (Organised by Professor A.C. Mohapatra)

International Seminar and Cultural Expo on ‘Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods among Tribes in Hilly Areas’ during 22nd - 24th March, 2012 (Convener: L. Cajee and Organising Secretary: H. J. Syiemlieh) (Supported by GIZ-NER, ICSSR-NERC, SAP-DRS, NEHU)


The 2nd Indian Landslide Congress, organised at I.I.F., Guwahati, during 15th - 16th September, 2011 (Organising Secretary: Prof. Z.H. Qureshi)

9.2 Attended

Prof. A.C. Mohapatra (i) delivered as a resource person a lecture on “An Eruption that Changed the World: The Thera Eruption” in the national seminar on “Climate Change and its Impact on North East”, Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, November 10-12, 2011; (ii) presented a key note paper on “Capitalism, the Nation State and the Tribes: The Livelihood Perspective” in International Conference on “Natural Resources and Rural Livelihood of Tribes in Hill Areas”, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong, March 22-24, 2012; (iii) a key note speaker in the National Seminar on “Conservation and Management of Natural Resources in North East India”, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Guwahati, March 28-29, 2012; participated in 33rd Indian Institute of Geography (Pune) Conference at Department of Geography & Disaster Management, Tripura University, Agartala, during February 8-11, 2012.
Prof. Surendra Singh (i) presented a key note paper on ‘Water Resource and Runoff Process in Extremely Humid Area of the World’ in National Seminar on Resource, Environment and Development: Issues and Strategies for Sustainable Development, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), 2-3 November 2011; (ii) Key note speaker on ‘Techniques for Inferences of Phenomenal Facts from Quantitative Observations in Geographical Researches’ and chaired one session on ‘Recent Advances in methods, tools and techniques and their applications in National Seminar on Recent Advances in the Development of Geographical Knowledge and its Interdisciplinary Association with Sciences’, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 3-4 November 2011; (iii) Key note speaker on ‘Regional Dimensions of Indian Agriculture’ and also chaired one session on ‘Agrarian Economy Land Reforms and Rural Development’ and also acted as one of the panelists in the panel discussion on ‘Development and Resource Conservation in the International Conference on Dimensions of Development and Resource Conservation organized by Department of Geography, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, 10-11 March 2012.


Prof. D.K. Nayak (i) presented a paper on “Demographic implications of Climate Change” and Chaired a session in National Seminar on Climate Change, Development and Social Transition in North East: Impact and Issues, Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh during 10-12 November, 2011 (ii) presented a paper entitled ‘Urbanization and the Sustainable Use of Space’ and chaired a session on Assessment of Natural Resources of Himalayan Foothills in UGC Seminar on Land use vis-à-vis Environmental Impact in India with Special Reference to Himalayan Foothills, Prasannadeb Women’s College, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, 26-27 Nov. 2011; (iii) Presented a paper on “Are We Heading for Eco-Terrorism?” in UGC Seminar on “Tourism, eco-tourism and Eco-terrorism: What is the Ultimate Goal-A Discussion in the


Dr. H.J. Syiemlieh (i) presented a paper entitled ‘Fine bedload Distribution of Initial Streams in Extremely High Rainfall Region : A Case Study of Um-U-Lah Watershed, Cherrapunjii’, National Conference & Annual Convention of the Institute of Indian Geomorphologists on Coastal Dynamics & Geomorphology , Department of Geology, Anna University, Chennai during 19th -22nd October 2011

Dr. P.K. Ryngnga presented papers on (i) Women and Career: Barriers to Equality in Academic Ladder in National Workshop on Women in Scientific Research-Examining the Challenges and identifying their needs, Department of Anthropology, NEHU, Shillong during 21st-22nd October 2011; (ii) Issues of Livelihood of the Poor in India’s North East, Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods among Tribes in Hilly Areas’ NEHU, Shillong during 22nd - 24rd March, 2012 and (iii) Forest Resources and Population of North East India, National Seminar on Conservation and Management of Natural Resources, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Guwahati during 28th -29th March 2012.

Dr Subrata Purkayastha (i) Presented a paper titled ‘Urban growth and solid waste management- A case study of Shillong, Meghalaya and also (with Gagan Gautam) entitled State Green Mission-A Unique and innovative Environmental Programme in the International Congress of Environmental Research, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat (Gujarat) during 15-17th December 2011; (; (iii) presented (with R. K. Purkayastha) paper on “ Tourism potential of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya,” in the national seminar on Status of Biodiversity in India: Conservation and Social relevance with reference to NE India, Don Bosco College Tura, Meghalaya during 8-9th August 2011.


Sushmita Bhattacharjee (Research Scholar) presented a paper. “Urban Slum: A Case Study of Slums in Silchar Town” in the 33rd Annual Conference of the Institute of Indian Geographers, Organized by Department of Geography, Tripura University, Agartala during 8th-11th February 2012.


L.T. Sasang Guite (Research Scholar) (i) attended an International Seminar on “Natural Resource and Rural Livelihood among Tribes in Hilly Areas”, Department of Geography, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Greater Himalayan Bio-Cultural Society, Shillong, Meghalaya, India during 22th-24th March, 2012 (ii) participated a Training on “Digital Mapping & Geographical Information System” from NATMO (National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Kolkata, India, during 4th-29th April, 2011 and (iii) participated on Capacity Building in Social Science Research Training-Cum-Workshop on Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) organized by ICSSR-North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya, India during 13th-22nd February, 2012.
Ansul Sood (Research Scholar) attended (i) an International Seminar on “Natural Resource and Rural Livelihood among Tribes in Hilly Areas” organized by the Department of Geography, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Greater Himalayan Bio-Cultural Society, Shillong, Meghalaya, India, during 22\textsuperscript{th}-24\textsuperscript{th} March, 2012 (ii) participated in a Training Programme on “Digital Mapping & Geographical Information System” from NATMO (National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, during 4\textsuperscript{th}-29\textsuperscript{th} April, 2011 and (iii) participated in Capacity Building in Social Science Research Training-Cum-Workshop on Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) organized by ICSSR-North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya, India during 13\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} February, 2012

Mayurakshi Bhuyan (Research Scholar) attended (i) an International Seminar on “Natural Resource and Rural Livelihood among Tribes in Hilly Areas” organized by the Department of Geography, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Greater Himalayan Bio-Cultural Society, Shillong, Meghalaya, India, during 22\textsuperscript{th}-24\textsuperscript{th} March, 2012; (ii) National Seminar on “Border Trade and Economic Development of Meghalaya: Emerging Scenerios and Benefi”ts, organized by the Department of Political Science, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India, during 29\textsuperscript{th}-30\textsuperscript{th} March, 2012 (iii) participated in a Training on “Digital Mapping & Geographical Information System” from NATMO (National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, during 4\textsuperscript{th}-29\textsuperscript{th} April, 2011 (iv) participated in a Training course in Data Analysis using Excel organized by Computer Center, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India, during 1\textsuperscript{st} July-31\textsuperscript{st} August, 2011 (v) participated in Meghalaya State Level Research Methodology Workshop in Social Sciences at ICSSR-NERC Complex, Shillong, NEHU Campus, Shillong during 14-17\textsuperscript{th} November, 2011 (vi) participated in Capacity Building in Social Science Research Training-Cum-Workshop on Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), ICSSR-NERC, Shillong, during 13\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} February, 2012; (vii) participated in a Training Programme on Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management organized by Department of Environmental Studies, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India, during 26\textsuperscript{th}-30\textsuperscript{th} March, 2012.

10. Publications:

10.1 Book Published


10.2 Papers Published Outside India


### 10.3 Papers Published in India


10.3 **Book Chapters**


11. **Fund received from agencies other than NEHU:**

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<td>UGC (SAP) DRS II Programme:</td>
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<td>International Seminar:</td>
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12. **Research Projects:**

12.1 **Completed**

i) UGC-SAP DRS II Programme, Coordinator Prof. A.C. Mohapatra; Joint Coordinator- Prof. B.S. Mipun

ii) UPE II Area Studies Project: ‘Valuation of Community Natural Resources and Livelihood Systems of Selected Communities of North East India’, UGC, New Delhi; Prof. A.C. Mohapatra-PI; Prof. B.S. Mipun-Co-PI; Prof. D.K. Nayak –Co-PI; Dr. L. Cajee Co-PI; Dr. P.K. Ryngnga-Co-PI

iii) Student Migration in Shillong, Meghalaya, under UGC-SAP DRS II, PI; Dr. S. Purkayastha

iv) Land Use/Land Cover Changes and Density of Population Influences on Urban Heat Island of Shillong- A Methodological Consideration, under UGC-SAP DRS II, P.I.: Dr. P. K. Ryngnga

12.2 **Ongoing**

Baseline Survey for Provision of Infrastructure (Sewerage and Solid Waste Management) for Greater Shillong Planning Area. Mot Macdonald, Ahmadabad. PI: Prof. B.S. Mipun, Co-PI: Prof. D. K. Nayak

Studies on Health Status and Demographic Pattern of Population around Dmaisiat Area, West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, BRNS-DAE, Mumbai, Co-PI: Prof. B.S. Mipun

Identification Strategy for Mapping of S&T Needs in Meghalaya, Dept, of Science and Technology, Govt. of Meghalaya, Shillong, Co-PI: Dr. H.J. Syiemlieh

Fluvial Geomorphology of the Manas and Pagladia River Basins, North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Barapani, Meghalaya, Co-PI: Prof. Z.H. Qureshi
Climate Change in South Asia under Indo-Japan Collaboration with Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University (Japan), Team Members: Dr. H.J. Syiemlieh and Dr. L. Cajee.

12.3. New: Nil

13. Academic Collaboration:

Indo-Japan Collaboration with Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University (Japan), Team Members: Prof. S. Singh, Dr. H.J. Syiemlieh, and Dr. L. Cajee.

14. Major Infrastructural Facilities:

Water Analyser Kit, Digital Precision Balance, Trinocular Microscope with CCD, BOD Incubator, Magnetic Stirrer with heater, Flame Photometer, Double Distillation Plant.

15. Honours/awards/recognition: nil

16. Other Academic Activities

Professor A.C. Mohapatra, Elected President of Indian Institute of Geography (Pune) for the year 2012-13 (ii) PI of Valuation of Community Natural Resources and Livelihood Systems in NE India, sponsored under UPE-II Area Studies, UGC, New Delhi; (iii) Coordinator of SAP-DRS II, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Prof. S. Singh delivered a series of lectures in Refresher Courses conducted in various Departments in NEHU; is nominated member of the Meghalaya State Watershed and Waste Land Development Agency, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

Prof. B.S Mipun delivered a series of lectures in Refresher Courses conducted in various Departments in NEHU;

Prof. D.K. Nayak (i) Coordinator, Refresher course in Geography on Modern Themes in Geography, ASC NEHU, 31st October-20th Nov. 2011 (ii) Delivered a series of lectures on settlement geography, Historical Geography and Geographical Thought, Department of Geography and Disaster Management at Tripura University, 9-19 April 2011 as Visiting Professor; (iii) Delivered a talk on “Disaster in School Curriculum” in the Training of Principals and vice-Principals of Schools on School Disaster Management Plan-concept and Preparation, MATI, Shillong, 26th May 2011 and also in various institution like St. Mary’s College, 18th June, 2011, ICSSR (NERC) 15th Nov. 2011 and so on; (iv) Nominated Expert of Advisory Committee of Dr. Ambedkar Studies Centre
under the scheme of Epoch Making Social Thinkers of India, Kasi Viswanath University, Varanasi; (v) Member, Advisory Board, Geo-Analyst-A research Journal of Social Sciences, Geographical Society of North Bengal; (vi) delivered Lectures in Refresher Course in Geography at Department of Geography, Calcutta University, Kolkata, 15-16 September, 2011 and in various Departments in NEHU, Shillong; (vii) delivered an invited Lecture on Are we Losing Regions as Focus of our Study?: Some Reflections on Regional Perspective in Geography, Burdwan University, Barddhaman, West Bengal, 28th March, 2012.

Prof. Z.H. Qureshi conducted field work in the Manas River basin from 5th to 10th May 2011 under the joint project ‘Fluvial Geomorphology of Manas and Pagaldia River Basins’, along with the team of NESAC, Umiam; and delivered lectures in the Refresher Course in the Geography Department on Modern Themes in Geography, 31st October to 20th Nov., 2011.

Dr. H. J. Syiemlieh is a co-investigator in the project on Identification Strategy for mapping of S & T Needs in Meghalaya, sponsored by the Government of Meghalaya and is a team member of the Indo-Japan collaboration with Japanese scientists from Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University on Climate Change in South Asia; (ii) Evaluation of Centrally sponsored Watershed projects implemented by Soil & Water Conservation, Govt. of Meghalaya, in Jaintia Hills & West Khasi Hills and (iii) Member of Meghalaya Water Foundation, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong

Dr. L. Cajee is a team member of the Indo-Japan collaboration with Japanese scientists from Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University on Climate Change in South Asia.

Dr. P. K. Ryngnga nominated as one of the five finalists for the Award of Potential of Excellence in Social Sciences by the Illinois University, USA, May 2011 and (i) delivered a series of lectures in Refresher Course in Geography on Modern Themes in Geography, 31st October to 20th Nov., 2011.

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