

तेविसावी

आंतरराष्ट्रीय आंतरविद्याशाखीय परिषद, पुणे

देश आणि विदेशातील विविध क्षेत्रातील  
पुरुष कर्तृत्वाचे योगदान

**The Contribution and Achievements of Men  
in Various Spheres at National and  
International Levels**

संपादक

- लुदमिला सेकाचेव्हा ● डॉ. विठ्ठल शिवणकर ● डॉ. स्नेहल तावरे
- डॉ. एल.डी. कदम ● डॉ. शिवलिंग मेनकुदळे ● डॉ. संजय नगरकर



स्नेहवर्धन प्रकाशन

पुणे

## अनुक्रमणिका

- पुरुष कर्तृत्वाच्या निमित्ताने... - संपादक / ७
- १. भारतीय हरितक्रांतीचे शिल्पकार प्रा. डॉ. सुप्रिया खोले / ९  
डॉ. एम. एस. स्वामीनाथन
- २. पत्रकार आणि साहित्यिक प्रा. डॉ. सिंधू आवळे / १३  
उत्तम कांबळे
- ३. डॉ. सिग्मंड फ्रॉईड यांचे मानसशास्त्रातील मनोविश्लेषणाबाबत योगदान प्रा. मिलिंद पाटील / १७
- ४. शाहू महाराज आणि महिला सक्षमीकरण प्रा. एम. के. कन्नडे / २२
- ५. समाज सुधारक - हमीद दलवाई सामाजिक सुधारणेतील योगदान प्रा. एस. पी. मुलाणी / २७
- ६. राहुल सांकृत्यायन का कथा लेफ्टनंट डॉ. रविंद्र पाटील / ३१  
साहित्य - राजनीतिक चेतना
- 7. The Impact and Contribution of Peter Drucker on Management Theory **Dr. Sampada Lavekar / 36**
- 8. Olympian Wrestler Khashaba Jadhav **Dr. Vikramsinh Nangare / 40**
- 9. Contribution of Alexander Von Humboldt to the development of Modern Geography **Dr. B. B. Ghurake / 44**
- 10. Dmitri Mendeleev- The King of Periodic Table **Dr. Kishor Gaikwad / 48**
- 11. Contribution and Achicvement of Friedrich Ratzel for the Development of Modern Human Geography **Dr. M. D. Kadam / 52**
- 12. Contribution of Michael Faraday in the field of Science **Dr. Samadhan Pawar / 56**

# **Contribution of Alexander Von Humboldt to the development of Modern Geography**

**- Dr. B. B. Ghurake**

## **Abstract -**

Alexander Von Humboldt *was an important geographer from the German school of geographical thought. He is known as the founder of modern geography. He coined the term Cosmos, Climatology and Continentality, in the study of physical geography. His works in the field of geography is no doubt a landmark in the history of modern geography.*

**Keywords:** *Cosmos, Climatology, Continentality*

## **Introduction :**

Alexander Von Humboldt was a great scholar in the modern geography. He mastered a number of disciplines. He put all his life into Travels & Research in order to understand complex nature of universe.

## **I) Life and Career -**

Alexander Von Humboldt was born in on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1769 at Berlin in Germany. He was a scholar of versatile genius, contributed to many branches of science & did research in Botany, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, History, Zoology, Climatology, Geomorphology and all other branches of geography.

## **II) Humboldt contribution to the development of Modern Geography -**

### **A) Geographical Writing (Published and Unpublished)-**

Alexander Von Humboldt was really a great scholar. He was initially interested in Botany but after the joining of university of Gottingen geology attracted his attention. In

his early stage he published a short monograph & several paper on 'The Rhine land Basalt' in 1789 & examined the origin of basaltic rock. Further he studied the effect of different rocks on magnetic declination. He became interested keenly in the rock structure of the Alps, he also visited to several countries.

## **B) Humboldt's Work -**

### **1) Travels & Explorations -**

#### **a) European Tour -**

Humboldt made his first European Tour in 1790. He travelled with a famous world tourist George Forster through Holland, Belgium, Central & Southern England & Northern France. In this tour he was highly impressed by Forster method of carefully/observation and artistic & scientific description of landscape in the lower Rhine.

#### **b) American Exploration -**

The second tour was done by Humboldt early in 1799. A before this tour Humboldt along with the French Botanist Bonpland reached Madrid (Capital of Spain) in Spain. On the way to Madrid, he made daily observation of temperature & altitudes. From Madrid, Alexander & the Bonpland reached in Venezuela. Along the sea coast they went to Caracas & explored the Valencia Lake.

#### **c) Russian Expeditions -**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> tour was done in 1829 at the age of 60. Humboldt travelled into the heart of Siberia across the Ural Mountain to explore the mineral resources according to the invitation of Russian Kzar.

### **2) COSMOS (Monument) -**

A. V. Humboldt completed the writing of his best known work, 'The Cosmos', during the last years of his life.

#### **Meaning of the Cosmos -**

The cosmos is the product of a series of public lectures offered at the Royal Academy & Sciences in Berlin. In 1845, Humboldt published his monumental work cosmos. It is a Sketch of a 'physical description of the Universe'.

#### **Structure of the Cosmos -**

The cosmos is a comprehensive survey of the universe.

It consists the account of the travels & expeditions of Humboldt. He published the cosmos in 5 volumes. The first volume was published in 1845 when he was 76 years and the fifth volume was published after his death in 1862 based on the copious notes he left.

### **Philosophy of the Cosmos (Objectives) -**

- 1) The first is the definition & limitation of a physical description of the world as a special and separate branch of knowledge/discipline.
- 2) The second is the objective content, which is the actual & empirical aspects of nature's entity in the scientific form of a portrait of nature.
- 3) The Third is the action of nature's studies through media such as travel, description, poetry, landscape painting and the display of contrasting groups of exotic plants.
- 4) And last, the history of natural philosophy and the gradual emergence of concepts pertaining to the cosmos as an organic unit.

### **3) Humboldt's Geographical Ideas & Thoughts -**

#### **a) Humboldt's concepts of geography -**

- 1) According to Humboldt *Geography* is a physical geography. Geography is the description of the earth which deals with the interrelationship of phenomena that exist together in an area'.
- 2) He has coined the term **Climatology** for the first time.
- 3) He used the term *Continentality* in the study of geography.

#### **b) Humboldt's Approach to geography (Unity of Nature)-**

Humboldt's geographical ideas were mainly emerged from an attempt that he made to seek the 'unity of Nature'. He recognized that the approach of geography to the nature is quite different from than those of natural sciences. He studied systematically a variety of different kinds of physical phenomenon in their areal relations with other phenomenon.

#### **4) Humboldt's Physical Geography -**

Humboldt was mainly a physical geographer and therefore he has been referred as the founder of Physical geography. According to him 'Physical Geography is the

description of the world'. It is concerned with the distribution of physical phenomena on the surface of the earth. The terms 'Geography' & 'physical Geography' both were synonymous for Humboldt.

### **5) Humboldt's Systematic Geography -**

Humboldt made a significant contribution to the development of systematic geography. He carried out more distinctly the systematic study of physical & biological phenomenon. He further pointed out the importance of making systematic studies of particular kinds of phenomenon associated to others in different areas & places.

### **Conclusion -**

Alexander Von Humboldt's work in the development of modern geography is valuable as he has given scientific status for geography as a discipline. He has adopted a systematic approach for the study of different physical aspects geography. Though Humboldt is known for his systematic geography; his work on Mexico and Cuba are the best examples of regional geography. He has founded Plant Geography as a separate branch of physical geography.

### **References -**

1. Adhikari, S.: Fundamentals of Geographical Thought
2. Dickinson, R. E. (1969): The Makers of Modern Geography
3. Freeman, T. W. (1961): A Hundred Years of Geography
4. Hartshorne R. (1959): Perspective on the Nature of Geography
5. Hartshorne R. (1961): Nature of Geography
6. Hussain, M.: Evolution of Geographical Thought
7. James, P. E.: All Possible Worlds (1972): A History of Geographical Ideas
8. Johnston, R. J. (1976): Geography and Geographer's
9. Minshull, R. (1970): The Changing Nature of Geography
10. Taylor, G.: Geography in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
11. Wooldridge an East (1951): The Spirit and Purpose of Geography

