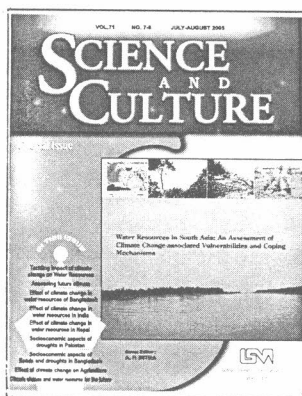


## GUEST EDITOR'S STATEMENT



THE QUESTION of changing availability of water due to climate change in a region that experiences periodically occurrences of intense droughts and flood is one of major concern. The region covered here is South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Srilanka)

Pune. While the problem is complex and different areas within the region have different types of changes, it was decided to concentrate on two highly vulnerable regions : those with low water availability and subject to frequent droughts and those with frequent floods. Apart from an academic study of possible changes, field studies were undertaken in selected sites, interviewing villagers soliciting their own perceptions. The articles presented here represent an analysis of these perceptions in the context of the academic studies.

controlled by the monsoon system. These countries joined together to mount an activity to examine this question recently. The programme was funded by Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research and by Fred. J. Hansen Institute for World Peace at San Diego, USA. Climate change scenarios were developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology,

The changing nature of water availability and of water quality is controlled by a number of factors including rapid increase in population, increasing demand from industries and domestic sectors, and most critically by agriculture. A serious question that emerged was that of reducing present high rate of use of water..... (over 80%) in this sector, some of which can be conserved.

The articles in this issue have been coordinated by Professor Amir Muhammad from Pakistan, the leader of programme, and by Dr. Bonnie Stewart, Executive Director, Fred J. Hansen Institute for World Peace, San Diego, USA.

This issue also brings out the advantages of having both physical and social scientists in programmes of this nature.

**A. P. Mitra**  
*Guest Editor*

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