

#HAZARD

Sinking Land

Land sinking or subsidence results in increased risk to roadways, runways, building foundations, rail lines, and pipelines



Sinking land is overlooked as a hazard in urban areas, globally, scientists report. For a new article published in the journal *Science*, Virginia Tech's Manoochehr Shirzaei collaborated with Robert Nicholls of the University of East Anglia to highlight the importance of recent research analyzing how and why land is sinking, including a study published in the same issue that focused on sinking Chinese cities.

Results from the accompanying research study show that of the 82 Chinese cities analyzed, 45% per cent are sinking. Nearly 270 million urban residents may be affected with hard-hit urban areas such as Beijing and Tianjin, sinking at a rate of 10 millimeters a year or more.

"Land sinking or subsidence results in increased risk to roadways, runways, building foundations, rail lines, and pipelines. The phenomenon isn't limited to China," Shirzaei says. "Land is sinking almost everywhere," says Shirzaei, who was not involved in the China-focused study but whose recent research using satellite-monitoring techniques shed light on the growing dangers of sinking land along the U.S. East Coast. "If we don't account for it in adaptation and resilience plans now, we may be looking at widespread destruction of infrastructure in the next few decades."



Hickory Dickory Dock



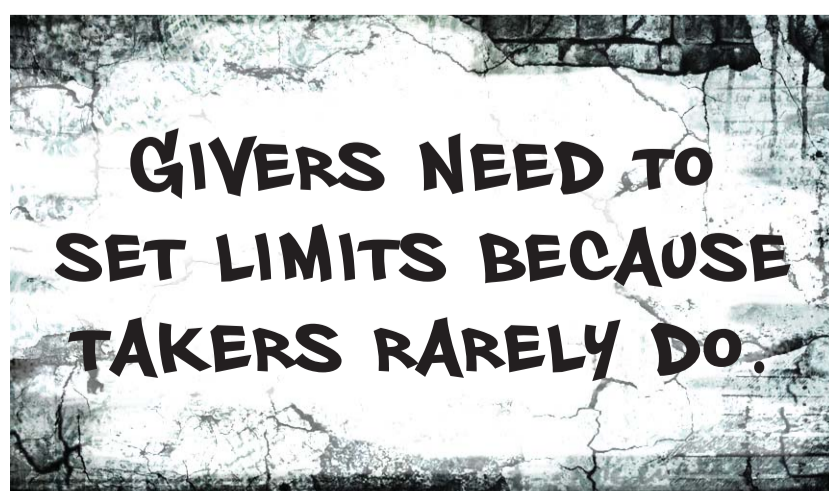
Vikram Joshi
Textile Technologist & Historian

probably would be the last golf player in *Rambagh Golf Club*, who used to play with 'Ping' (a renowned American brand in golf) wood headed clubs until a few months ago until I bought 'Honma' (Hand-crafted Japanese golf club manufacturer) woods and clubs. Playing with *Ping Woods*, made from Crimson wood, was so overwhelming. The rich, deep hues of *Crimson wood* add a touch of elegance to the golfing experience, while its unique properties enhance the performance of the club. The smooth, polished surface of the wood feels exquisite in the hands, offering a comfortable grip and precise control over each swing. As the club strikes the ball, the resonance of Crimson wood produces a satisfying sound, echoing through the course. With *Ping Woods*, crafted from this exceptional material, every stroke becomes a moment of pure joy, blending artistry with the thrill of the game.

My love for *old Golf Clubs* was quite popular among my golf buddies and a couple of weeks back, someone handed me old, worn out badly kept old clubs. Among them, I noticed some with wooden shafts and barely noticeable maker's name, which technically is called 'Golf Cleek and Iron maker.' As a ritual, any antique item I pick up, I first clean it to restore the honor of it. As I wiped the clubs with dry cloth, I noticed, *R-Forgan and Sons By Andrews, Made in Scotland*. Wow!!! I immediately googled the name and found out that these were rare 'Hickory Golf Clubs.'



THE WALL



My love for *old Golf Clubs* was quite popular among my golf buddies and a couple of weeks back, someone handed me old, worn out badly kept old clubs. Among them, I noticed some with wooden shafts and barely noticeable maker's name, which technically is called 'Golf Cleek and Iron maker.' As a ritual, any antique item I pick up, I first clean it to restore the honor of it. As I wiped the clubs with dry cloth, I noticed, *R-Forgan and Sons St Andrews, Made in Scotland*. Wow!!! I immediately googled the name and found out that these were rare 'Hickory Golf Clubs.'

"Of club-makers, no man has ever approached Hugh Phillip." He compared owning one of Phillip's clubs to possessing an ancient Cremona violin or a Toledo blade, a treasure of exquisite craftsmanship. After Phillip's passing in 1856, Forgan's legacy thrived amidst competition from local rivals like Tom Morris and David Anderson & Sons, Patrick of Leven, and AG Spalding of London, which ventured into File to expand their endeavors.

Robert Forgan, Phillip's nephew and apprentice, assumed control of the company. During his tenure, imported hickory was seasoned by the 17th fairway at St Andrews. In the Black Sheds, stacks of square-cut shafts awaited, each stack containing up to 8,000 rods. After a year of seasoning, they were meticulously shaped by hand, meeting the high demand for Forgan's clubs.

The renowned Prince of Wales paid a visit, marking a shift from Phillip's original workshop to an old fisherman's house that would become the heart of the company. The introduction of saws and lathes revolutionized production, leading to mass manufacturing. The Prince was enamored with a unique set of clubs in 1864, leading to the proud display of the insignia of golf club makers to His Majesty King Edward over Forgan's door by 1902.

Robert Forgan's premature death in 1900 passed the company to his son, Thomas, who expanded the workforce before his untimely death in 1906. The business then transitioned to his sons, Lawrence and Robert. The era saw the evolution of club names, from the *Driving Putter to the Iron Niblick and Brassie*, mirroring advancements in club technology.

While Forgan's thrived, the economic downturn from falling herring stocks impacted the region, prompting many displaced from the fishing industry to find solace in golf. Forgan's expanded globally, taking orders from golf-playing nations. Locally, the family remained involved in community affairs, making significant donations to St Andrews Martyrs' Church. The Second World War brought challenges, leading to the

eventual acquisition of Forgan by American-owned Spalding, marking the end of an era. The factory ceased operations in 1963, with Spalding consolidating in Belfast. The disused factory found new life as the St Andrew's Woolen Mill, offering tweed, coffee, and shortbread. In 1988, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club bought the building, refurbishing it for the 131st Open.

Assam boasts a rich history of tea and golf, with tea introduced by Robert Bruce in 1823. The region harbors the world's largest concentration of tea plantations, employing a significant portion of the state's workforce. Assam tea production accounts for a substantial portion of India's total, making it a 'global tea hub.'

India's first golf course outside Great Britain emerged in Assam in 1829. The region's 'tea-tees' or golf courses within tea estates offer a unique experience, a blend of colonial heritage and natural beauty. These courses, often with nine holes, have become exotic holiday destinations, enticing tourists with the allure of tea and golf. Visitors to Assam's tea gardens immerse themselves in the region's tea culture, witnessing the vast emerald-green estates.

Hickory Golf Clubs offer a nostalgic charm to the game, harking back to golf's early days. With their vintage look and feel, these clubs transport players to a bygone era of the sport. Playing with hickory clubs requires a delicate touch and finesse, as they reintroduce 'feel' to the golf shot. Golfers cherish the challenge of finding and restoring these clubs for play, appreciating their historical significance. Hickory golf allows players to experience classic courses as they were meant to be played, adding a layer of authenticity and nostalgia to each



Assam's tea culture, witnessing the vast emerald-green estates. Many estates boast world-class bungalows with attached golf courses, creating a haven for tea and golf enthusiasts alike.

Forgan also made significant contributions to the global golfing community, exporting clubs to renowned sports shops like *Wagle & Co* in Bombay (Mumbai). Established in 1865, *Wagle & Co* sold golf clubs to Indian Royalties, featuring Forgan's stampings on their clubs. The Hickory clubs, which I found recently, has a stamping (Cleek) 'Wagle & Co Bombay.' This company is now transformed from an importer to an exporter of sports goods.



Assam: Where Tea and Golf Blend Seamlessly and the Indian Golfing history.

Assam boasts a rich history of tea and golf, with tea introduced by Robert Bruce in 1823. The region harbors the world's largest concentration of tea plantations, employing a significant portion of the state's workforce. Assam tea production accounts for a substantial portion of India's total, making it a 'global tea hub.'

India's first golf course outside Great Britain emerged in Assam in 1829. The region's 'tea-tees' or golf courses within tea estates offer a unique experience, a blend of colonial heritage and natural beauty. These courses, often with nine holes, have become exotic holiday destinations, enticing tourists with the allure of tea and golf. Visitors to Assam's tea gardens immerse themselves in the region's tea culture, witnessing the vast emerald-green estates.

Hickory Golf Clubs offer a nostalgic charm to the game, harking back to golf's early days. With their vintage look and feel, these clubs transport players to a bygone era of the sport. Playing with hickory clubs requires a delicate touch and finesse, as they reintroduce 'feel' to the golf shot. Golfers cherish the challenge of finding and restoring these clubs for play, appreciating their historical significance. Hickory golf allows players to experience classic courses as they were meant to be played, adding a layer of authenticity and nostalgia to each

Jorhat Gymkhana Club: A Storied Legacy

The *Jorhat Gymkhana Club* stands as Assam's oldest golf course and the world's third oldest, a testament to Assam's golfing heritage. Built in 1876 by the British, the club initially served as a 'planters' club' for Assam's tea planters. The present club, established in 1885, boasts a

International Dance Day

The art of dance is one of the earliest and longest-standing forms of entertainment and community activity known to humankind. While it continues to be practiced by millions of people daily, *Dance Day* is a precise moment in the calendar, where everyone is invited to take part in an extremely enjoyable pastime. Even those with two left feet! Dance is one of the ultimate activities to destress, lose inhibitors, meet new people, and boost physical health. The annual tradition encapsulates people around the globe. Take your passion and make it happen this *Dance Day*.



Hickory Golf: A Return to Tradition

Hickory Golf, played with hickory-shafted clubs, harks back to golf's roots. Organized by various societies worldwide, hickory golf reintroduces 'feel' to the game, challenging players to restore and use vintage clubs. Proponents argue that hickory golf offers a unique experience, allowing golfers to play classic courses as they were intended. Hickory Golf Clubs offer a nostalgic charm to the game, harking back to golf's early days. With their vintage look and feel, these clubs transport players to a bygone era of the sport. Playing with hickory clubs requires a delicate touch and finesse, as they reintroduce 'feel' to the golf shot. Golfers cherish the challenge of finding and restoring these clubs for play, appreciating their historical significance. Hickory golf allows players to experience classic courses as they were meant to be played, adding a layer of authenticity and nostalgia to each

In conclusion, Forgan of St Andrews stands as a beacon of golfing excellence, bridging the gap between tradition and innovation. From its humble beginnings in the 19th century to its global reach in the modern era, Forgan's legacy lives on through its craftsmanship and contribution to the 'great game of golf.'

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



#TRENDING

India's most Instagrammed tourist hotspots

Mumbai's *Gateway of India* leads ranking with 700,000 hashtags per acre

Discovering the most Instagrammable destinations in India offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolving landscape of travel and social media. The inclusion of lesser-known gems like Golden Temple and Sanchi Stupa in the top rankings highlights the diverse array of Instagrammable destinations across India. This underscores the importance of exploring beyond the well-trodden paths, to uncover hidden treasures, that offer unique photographic opportunities and cultural experiences. Here are India's top 10 Instagrammable locations in 2024 for some travel inspiration, ahead of your next visit!



1. Gateway of India
Mumbai's top tourist destination stands on the waterfront in Colaba, in the city's south, overlooking the Arabian Sea. With 700,000 hashtags per acre, it is India's most Instagrammed destination in 2024. Built by the British, the structure combines elements of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles and serves as a gateway to explore the rich history and vibrant culture of Mumbai. It's also free to visit, which helps boost its popularity.



2. Jama Masjid
Located in Old Delhi, this large mosque was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan and can accommodate more than 25,000 people in its courtyard. The marble and red sandstone structure is a rare place of tranquility in the very heart of Old Delhi's mayhem. It has four watch-towers and two towering minarets, one which visitors can climb for breath-taking views of the city.

3. Hawa Mahal
The third most Instagrammable spot in India is Hawa Mahal, with 261,326 hashtags per acre. Located in Jaipur, this five-storey red and pink sandstone structure is constructed from the same salmon-toned stone used in the construction of Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple. Famed for its intricate lattice-work, *Hawa Mahal* was originally designed to allow royal women to observe street festivals while remaining unseen.

4. Patrika Gate
Jaipur's *Patrika Gate* is, perhaps, a surprising entry on the list, given it's not as famous as other monuments in the country. But with 186,667 hashtags per acre on Instagram. Located in Agra, the mausoleum was built by Shah Jahan for his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Crafted from pristine white marble, it attracts millions of visitors each year.

5. Golden Temple
Glistening in the Amritsar sun, *Sri Harmandir Sahib*, or the *Golden Temple* has clocked up about 75,000 hashtags per acre on Instagram. The sacred site is regarded as the holiest temple in the Sikh faith and is famed for its gold-plated exterior and views of the surrounding Amrit Sarovar Lake. Built in the 1500s, the temple blends Hindu and Islamic architectural styles.

6. Taj Mahal
One of the Seven Wonders of the World, and arguably India's most famous site, the *Taj Mahal* ranks lower on the list than might be expected, with just 61,905 hashtags per acre on Instagram. Located in Agra, the mausoleum was built by Shah Jahan for his third wife,

7. City Palace
City Palace in Udaipur is a striking place of beauty on the banks of Lake Pichola. Built by Uda Singh II, the Maharana of Mewar in 1559, this fortress was erected as a point of strategic defence. The largest palace in Rajasthan, surrounded by balconies, towers and domes, it offers visitors a glimpse into history and stunning views, helping it record 50,600 hashtags per acre on Instagram.

8. Nahargarh Fort
The fort in Jaipur's Aravalli Hills is known for being one of the best places to take in panoramic views of the city. With 50,244 hashtags per acre on Instagram, *Nahargarh Fort* dates back to 1734, when it was commissioned by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II as a retreat for royal families to escape to. It has a charm of its own.

9. Qutab Minar
One of the oldest surviving monuments in India, Delhi's *Qutab Minar* has the tallest minaret in the country as well as the tallest brick minaret in the world, at a height of 72 metres. The UNESCO World Heritage Site clocked up 27,151 hashtags per acre on Instagram.

10. Sanchi Stupa
One of the oldest Buddhist monuments in the country, it is believed to house the ashes of the Buddha. Beautifully proportioned, the mound-like structure shelters the original brick stupa inside and is encircled by intricately carved gateways. The Madhya Pradesh attraction racked up 23,857 hashtags per acre.



© 2024 by Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott