

continues writing unabated. To his credit are nearly 15 thematic volumes of IGC, which he has edited over the last two-and-a-half decades, while quite a few are under process. At present, he also serves as Hony. Editor of IGC Journal and its various other publications.

At +86, he is in great demand for special lectures in different institutions and forums. In 2009, delivered - Foundation Lecture of NGRI, Hyderabad, and lately in ESS Section during 99th Indian Science Congress, Bhubaneswar, January 4, 2012, and earlier, several others. He has pioneered the publication of thematic volume on "Coastal Hazards" already published. It was followed by other special publications of IGC, most recently special volume devoted to IGC - 2013 and other specialized publications.

His professional career spanning over six- and -a -half decades is marked by unmatched connectivity and continuity in the service of geosciences - no missing link at all. Even at this stage, he is a prolific writer on various features of earth sciences. His long list of scientific papers, reports, speeches are widely published and referred not only in India but also globally. Besides, there are innumerable other contributions as editorials, commentaries & reports on bizarre current issues related to earth sciences. List of the programmes and fora, organized under the managerial and organizational abilities of Prof. Varma, are too large to be given in this document (For detailed information visit IGC website at www.igcindia.net).

Madan Lal Jhanwar Defeats Time for Ph.D. Award



Hats off to **Dr. Madan Lal Jhanwar (LM-336)**, for having done his Ph.D. Course of Studies at the age of 79 in 2011 from Rajasthan University, Jaipur. Dr. Jhanwar, former Director, Geological Survey of India, is now stationed at 5A Indira Nagar, Jaipur - 302 018 (Email :

mljhanwar1932@gmail.com). Presently, he manages the Institute of Environment Education and Sustainable Development which has till date investigated several projects with many in pipeline for advanced study. For details, contact Dr. Jhanwar on Mobile 09636565643. Abstract of his thesis is given below: Dr. Jhanwar is the invited speaker for the lecture series of IGC in Hindi. His lecture on "जल ही जीवन है", the script of which is being processed, is to be delivered in Jaisalmer (Raj.) in the coming month of December 2014. Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Jhanwar for having received the coveted academic distinction at the fog end of his professional career. His endeavours to carry forward the societal benefits of his knowledge & expertise are admirable and worthy of simulation by any ambitious professional. Our very best wishes for his long & fruitful life!

Abstract of Ph.D. thesis on "Assessment, Planning and Management for Sustainable Development of Water Resources

of the Arwari River Basin Based on Remote Sensing and GIS in the Context of Johads" (refer p.67-)

Proceeding Ahead in Research Endeavours



Prof. V.C. Tewari life member (LM-642), Scientist G, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India jointly with his counterpart **Prof. A. N. Sial**, NEG- LABISE, Department of Geology, University of Pernambuco, Recife, PE, 50740-530, Brazil in a cooperative

Research Project on "Northward flight of the Indian Plate, Cretaceous-Paleogene Boundary, Global Paleoclimate Change and extension of Tethys Ocean in NE India".

Main aspects & objectives of the Project

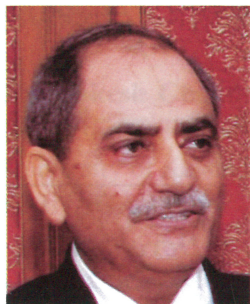
India was a part of the Gondwanaland Supercontinent till Early Cretaceous. It was a period of intense plate tectonics leading to the development of new sedimentary basins and major episodes of the flood basalt extrusion. Further anti-clockwise movement (northward flight) of India caused emergence of passive margin setting. The passive margin setting from Late Cretaceous to Oligocene continued until the collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian and Burmese Plates in the northeast. The breakup of the Eastern Gondwana Supercontinent (India, Antarctica and Australia) resulted in the development of Indian ocean and Neotethys ocean during the Cretaceous Period. The anti-clockwise northward flight of India continued and the new intracratonic basins and shelves developed. These early foreland basins formed the floor for the Tertiary basins in the Indian, subcontinent, including the Himalaya. Early foreland basin evolution during Late Cretaceous-Paleogene in the South Shillong Plateau, Meghalaya is of global significance. The rifting initiated with extrusion of widespread basaltic traps (Sylhet traps) and the development of new basin (Neotethys Ocean) took place. The Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary is best developed in the South Shillong Plateau, Meghalaya, and can be globally correlated with the major biotic extinction associated with meteoritic impact or Deccan flood basalt.

Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary is of global significance because of dramatic climatic change, eruption of Deccan flood basalt, mass extinction and extraterrestrial meteorite impact (Tewari et al., 2007; 2010). Um Sohryngkew section of the South Shillong Plateau in Meghalaya, NE India, is the best and the complete stratigraphic section in India and currently being studied for global comparison of these events.

In the present collaborative project, the researchers are using Hg - content as proxy for volcanic activity at the K/T boundary for the first time in India. Mercury shows several peaks across

K/T boundary in different continents and is a strong tool for correlation of role of volcanic activity during extreme climatic and biotic events. The Hg - events are reported from the South America (Brazil and Argentina) and Europe (Italy and Denmark, Sial et al., 2014, doi 10.1016/j.palaeo.2014.08.13) and will be compared with the new data from Meghalaya, India. High resolution oxygen and carbon isotope chemostratigraphy and Hg isotope data from Meghalaya will shed more light on the impact of Deccan volcanism versus meteorite impact as the major cause for the global catastrophe, extreme climatic event, and mass extinction at the Cretaceous –Paleogene boundary on the Earth.

Rasik Ravindra : A Geoscientist Incarnate Elected to UN Entity on Ocean Affairs



Dr. Rasik Ravindra life member (LM-682) earns a rare distinction by being elected as a member of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLCS). Dr. Rasik Ravindra, formerly Director, National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, (2006-2012), settled in several distinguished academic and

technocratic positions after having demitted the post of Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India in 2005. During his professional career of nearly three & a half decades, Dr. Rasik Ravindra served as a member of several discerning committees and adventurous and daring expeditions in inaccessible terrains such as geological expeditions to Higher & Bhutan Himalayas. He was introduced to Antarctica in 1987, when he led the Seventh Indian Expedition to Antarctica. Subsequently, he was the leader of the Ninth Antarctica Expedition in 1989-91 and continued to visit the frozen icy continent again in 1996-97, 2003-04, 2007 and 2009 in various capacities to study the different aspects of geology & tectonics of the continent, needed logistics, international policy framework and environmental protocols. He was selected to lead the First Indian Arctic Expedition that

established Himadri – the Indian Station in Arctic.

With his unquestioned mastery in cryosphere studies repeatedly by setting out for adventurous journey over Higher Himalayas, Antarctica, Arctic, South Pole and other adventurous expeditions, such as Himalayan glaciers, he runs high with a number of prestigious awards & recognitions in the field of Polar Science & Cryosphere, including “*National Award for Polar Sciences & Cryosphere in 2013 and National Mineral Award in 1990*” (For more on his CV, refer Jour. Ind. Geol. Cong., Vol. 5(2), Nov. 2013, pp.78-79). On June 12, 2014 Rasik Ravindra got elected unanimously as a member of the Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS a UN’s body) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLCS) at the 24th meeting of the State Parties to the Convention. Supports to his candidature came from all the 111-members present and creditably voting for him.

His term as member of CLCS will be upto June 15, 2017. The Commission consists of 21 members and has powers to grant new sea-bed territory to world nations. The elected members are experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

The purpose of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf is to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (NM) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. Under the Convention, the coastal State shall establish the outer limits of its continental shelf where it extends beyond 200 NM on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission. The Commission shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of those limits; its recommendations and actions shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.

Ravindra is one of the exceptionally qualified geoscientists to have the opportunity to serve on the Commission for a tenure of five years. Members of Ind. Geol. Cong. and others of larger fraternity of Indian earth scientists wish him well and great success in the discharge of his duties & obligations in global partnership as member of CLCS.