

**Note on Celebration of 169<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day in Geological Survey of India,  
State Unit: Maharashtra, Pune**

The 169<sup>th</sup> "Foundation Day" of Geological Survey of India was celebrated with fervor and gaiety in State Unit Maharashtra, Pune. On this occasion a three day programme was organized from 04<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Shri. M. M. Powar, Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra inaugurated the celebrations by lighting of the traditional lamp and cake cutting ceremony. Many retired officers including Shri Eshwara, Retd. ADG, Sh. R.S Alte, Retd. DDG (Chemistry), Dr. A.D. Nejkar, Retd. Director & Dr. Sudha Vaddadi, Prof., Fergusson College, Pune graced the function. Dr. S. K. Deb. Director, TC Division welcomed all the officers, staff, and retired officers on this occasion. On this auspicious occasion Shri M.M. Powar addressed the gathering and greeted all on the occasion. He gave a brief account of GSI by recalling the glorious past of the Geological Survey of India, and highlighted discoveries of mineral deposits and GSI's contribution in nation building. He discussed several changes brought about in the functioning of GSI including the High Power Committee and the present VAQ program which is under implementation. On this occasion an exhibition on field photographs taken by the geologists during the course of field work was organized. Many field officers of SU Maharashtra Pune participated in this exhibition cum competition enthusiastically. On this auspicious day, a newly established Permanent GPS – Seismo - Geodetic Observatory at GSI Pune office was inaugurated by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Director General, GSI from Kolkata through video conferencing. All the officers of SU Maharashtra, Pune office were present during the inaugural function.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 an interactive session on VAQ initiative was organized as a part of the Foundation Day celebration. Shri M. M. Powar, Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra initiated the interaction by outlining the importance of VAQ programme and emphasized that the VAQ initiative needs to be owned by one and all in our organization. Dr. M. S. Bodas, Director and theme coordinator for Theme-1 (HRD) appraised the gathering about the concept of VAQ, the purpose behind VAQ and highlighted the need for complete involvement of all concerned in the VAQ programme. This interaction was in fact the forth interaction on the subject. The earlier three interactions being i) Immediately after Feb 2018 meeting of theme co-coordinators ii) After VAQ workshop in July 2018 & iii) A VAQ session conducted by the Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra on 11.02.2019. At the end of the session, the officers were divided in 12 groups and were asked to critically read each theme and apprise their peers about its importance on the third day of the celebration i.e. on the 06.03.2019.

The activities on the third day i.e. 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 started with an invited lecture on "Aquifer Mapping and Groundwater Management" by Dr. H.C. Kulkarni, an eminent Hydrologist of ACWADAM (Advance Centre for Water Resources Development and Management), a NGO that works towards developing and improving understanding of Groundwater resources and aims at "Bringing aquifers and communities closer to each other". The invited talk was well received by all the officers of SU: Maharashtra and it initiated thought process of developing field programme in Mission-II C in future.

The invited talk was followed by interaction with the teams of faculty members from Department of Geology, Fergusson College (Now Deemed University), Pune and Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. The interaction was aimed at i) Appraising the faculty members about the Internship programme launched by GSI and ii) Explore the possibility of Collaboration at individual as well as institutional level. The PG students of Poona College and Wadia College, Pune were also invited for an interactive session on 06.03.2019 but due to their exam schedule the students could not attend the session.

The third and the last activity of the day was session II on VAQ wherein the 12 teams of GSI, Pune officers appraised their peers about salient points and importance of various themes in VAQ programme. At the end of the session, Dr. M.S. Bodas, Director reiterated the need for complete commitment towards the initiative and highlighted the need for understanding the mutual relationship amongst various themes for increasing Visibility, improving Activities and enhancing Quality of GSI.

As a part of celebration of 169<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of GSI, Shri G. Vidyasagar, Additional Director General & HoD, GSI, CR has kindly selected and approved one officer and one staff from SU Maharashtra Pune for felicitation. Smt. Paramita Dasarwar, Sr. Geologist and Shri Abhijit Gore, MTS were felicitated for their sincere work and capabilities in the assignments given to them during last year.

Lastly, the Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra once again wished one and all on the occasion of 169<sup>th</sup> Foundation day and expressed the hope that the GSI would continue its journey with complete commitment and proves itself to be important in achieving sustainable development in years to come.



Lightening of the traditional lamp by Shri M.M. Powar, Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra



Cake Cutting Ceremony by Shri M.M. Powar, Sh. A. K. Singh, Dr. M. S. Bodas and Dr. S. K. Deb,



GSI officers with the Faculty Members from Savitribai Phule Pune University & Fergusson College, Pune during meeting on GSI internship programme (GSI-IP).



Shri Eshwara, Retd. ADG, GSI while observing and grading photographs in the exhibition



Dr. Himanshu C. Kulkarni, Eminent Geoscientist, of ACWADAM giving lecture



Sh. M. M. Powar, DDG, SUM addressing the gathering on the occasion of 169th Foundation Day of GSI on 4th March 2019.



Shri M.M. Powar, Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra felicitating Smt. Paramita Dasarwar, Sr. Geologist



Shri M.M. Powar, Dy. Director General, SU: Maharashtra felicitating Shri Abhijit Gore, MTS