

Our Twentieth President



With unanimous decision of the Executive Council at its 48th meeting held on 2nd November, 2015 in New Delhi, name of Dr. Gopal Dhawan was approved for the office of the 20th President of this Society for the year 2016 & 2017. Dr. Gopal Dhawan assumed office from Dec. 31, 2015 for a period of two years.

Dr. Gopal Dhawan had his geoscience education from two premier academies of India – one in the east & the second in the west – respectively M.Tech in Applied Geology from the University of Roorkee (now IIT-Roorkee) and Ph.D. from Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanab for his work on “*Correlation of Rock Quality Parameters and Tunnel Support System the in Himalayas*” in 1992. Dr. Dhawan is professionally an Engineering Geologist and has 34 years of experience in the field of earth sciences, mineral exploration and foundation geology, hydroelectric projects in India, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar in the main. By dint of his stellar performances in various establishments, he served, he rose to the ranking position of CMD/MECL.

Currently, Dr. Gopal Dhawan is Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.(MECL), a fully owned Govt. of India Company since May-2012 . In addition, he holds charge of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) as its Managing Director. Prior to this, he was Executive Director (Geo-tech & Project Investigation) in NHPC Limited.

In MECL, Dr. Dhawan has been instrumental in preparing & implementing conceived business strategies which has led the MECL to achieve top-notch performance in 2014-15. As a result it has been coronated with the status of “*Mini Ratna Company*” by Govt. of India.

He is a recipient of prestigious CBIP “*Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Research Award*” of 2004 for his outstanding contribution in promoting cause of Engineering Geology in the National Development programmes. He has also been conferred with the award of “*Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Rock Mechanics & Tunneling Technology*” for the year 2008 by the Indian Society of Rock Mechanics & Tunneling Technology (ISRMTT). The Mining Engineers Association of India has honoured Dr. Dhawan with “*Outstanding Leadership Award for Excellence*” in Indian Mineral Industry in 2014.

Dr. Dhawan is a Research Council Member of National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, as well as President of Indian Society of Engineering Geology, Indian National Group of International Society of Engineering Geology and Environment.

His professional performance & achievements speak volumes of his qualities as a visionary technocrat that is very essence of a successful leadership, not only on the bygone tasks of responsibility, but surely everywhere in future. The Indian Geological Congress is proud and pleased to have him as its President, looking towards him as achiever of its dream plans.

May his Presidency be with a difference!

Contributed by O.P.V.