

Annual Report 2020-21 Department of Geology

Student Council Elections (2020-21)

The new academic year brought preliminary challenges due to wide spread COVID 19. The time had finally come to transfer the leadership of the Geology department society Terre-X into the worthy hands of the fresh batch. A new team of nine office bearers under the leadership of Akash Nair as President of **Terre-X society** was elected for session 2020-2021. To guide and supervise the society an Advisory Committee was formed consisting of all faculty members.

Teacher's Day Celebration

The foundation of a splendid series of events conducted by Terre-X throughout the academic year was laid by the Teacher's Day Celebration on **5th September 2020**. Considering the tough times, a **'Virtual Meet and Greet'** was organized on **Google Meet**. The event commenced with a welcome speech by **President** of Terre-X society. On behalf of all the students, few alumnae and final year students shared their cheerful experiences with the faculty and thanked them for being a beautiful steer in times of need. To pay homage to our beloved teachers, students recited a beautiful Sanskrit shloka. A small video was presented which embraced the merry moments of our teachers with the students. The event was concluded with a gratitude speech by a student member of the society.

Fresher's Welcome Ceremony

"Fresher's Welcome" in any college is an event that every student eagerly awaits. **22nd November 2020** was a memorable day for our society as we welcomed the new blood with enthusiasm and laughter. The event was held online through **Google Meet**. The program started with the formal welcome of all fresher's to the Department of Geology and was followed by the introduction of the faculty members and the society office-bearers. A virtual tour of the department was given to the new members, acquainting them with the classes, labs, pictures from previous field trips and events.

Students Awards and Acheivements

Ms. Kastur Parida final year student of B.Sc. (Hons) Geology, Ram Lal Anand College secured highest marks in the University of Delhi in Geology. She was awarded the University Gold Medal and certificate in the 97th Convocation ceremony which was held on 27th February 2021.



Ms. Kastur Parida

This year, the Rock cutting and thin-section Lab was made operational to strengthen the teaching-learning and research activities. Significant donation of rare specimens by Mr. M.F. Makki (Matrix India Ltd. Pune) enriched the geological museum resource to greater extent.



Mr. M.F. Makki



Some Donated Samples



Rock Cutting and Thin Section Preparation Lab

Annual Festival

VASHANKH'21, the two-day annual festival of department of Geology was organized from **6th to 7th March 2021 on Google Meet, Zoom** and YouTube live. The inauguration commenced with a warm welcome by the President of the Society and was followed by a ceremonial lamp lighting to invoke the blessings of Goddess Saraswati.

VASHANKH-21 was formally inaugurated by Principal **Dr. Rakesh Gupta** and he applauded the Society for its enthralling activities. He further went on to remark that the Department of Geology has become the college's flagship department where all other societies look upto. Towards the end of the ceremony the society president detailed the various competitions to be held under the banner of VASHANKH'21. It was marked by an International webinar series by great Geoscientist across world which gave students a unique opportunity to listen and interact with them. The event received more than 500 registrations from different parts of the world, including the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Chile, Sri Lanka.

Apart from this various other activities in the form of quizzes, poster competition etc. were held and large number of students from various colleges/University and Institutes participated in these events. Attractive cash prizes and certificated were awarded to the winners.

**6-7th MARCH 2021
ZOOM(ONLINE)**

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WEBINARS BY
**PROF. MAURICE TUCKER
PROF. NIGEL HUGHES
PROF. ASHOK SAHNI
DR. ROBERT FINKELMAN**

- 1 QUIZQUAKE**
The quizzing event for geology students.
- 2 POSTEROZOIC**
The poster presentation competition.
- 3 PHOTOBLENDE**
The Field Photography Competition.
- 4 ESSAY WRITING**

<p>Prof. Maurice E. Tucker School of Earth Science University of Bristol</p> <p>FOSSIL VIRUSES AND THE ROLES OF VIRUSES IN EARTH SCIENCE</p> <p>Saturday, March 6th, 2021 5:00 PM (IST) ZOOM (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Prof. Nigel Hughes Professor of Geology Earth and Planetary Sciences University of California, Riverside</p> <p>RECONSTRUCTING THE PRE-COLLISION HISTORY OF HIMALAYAN MARGIN, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR HIMALAYAN UPLIFT AND EROSION</p> <p>Saturday, March 6th, 2021 6:30 PM (IST) ZOOM (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Prof. Ashok Sahni Professor Emeritus Department of Geology Panjab University</p> <p>DINOSAURS OF INDIA: DEAD BUT WELL</p> <p>Sunday, March 7th, 2021 5:00 PM (IST) ZOOM (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Dr. Robert Finkelman Research Professor Department of Geosciences University of Texas at Dallas</p> <p>PROSPECTS OF MEDICAL GEOLOGY AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF UNCONTROLLED COAL FIRES AT JHARIA REGION</p> <p>Sunday, March 7th, 2021 7:00 PM (IST) ZOOM (ONLINE)</p>
<p>AKASH NAIR, PRESIDENT, 8383978553 SHREYA SHUKLA, SECRETARY, 7987649040 AVIRAL SRIVASTAVA, VICE-PRESIDENT, 8178865593 RAHUL BHANDARI, SOCIAL MEDIA HEAD, 8826019897</p>	<p>AKASH NAIR, PRESIDENT, 8383978553 SHREYA SHUKLA, SECRETARY, 7987649040 AVIRAL SRIVASTAVA, VICE-PRESIDENT, 8178865593 RAHUL BHANDARI, SOCIAL MEDIA HEAD, 8826019897</p>	<p>AKASH NAIR, PRESIDENT, 8383978553 SHREYA SHUKLA, SECRETARY, 7987649040 AVIRAL SRIVASTAVA, VICE-PRESIDENT, 8178865593 RAHUL BHANDARI, SOCIAL MEDIA HEAD, 8826019897</p>	<p>AKASH NAIR, PRESIDENT, 8383978553 SHREYA SHUKLA, SECRETARY, 7987649040 AVIRAL SRIVASTAVA, VICE-PRESIDENT, 8178865593 RAHUL BHANDARI, SOCIAL MEDIA HEAD, 8826019897</p>

Prof. Tucker started the session by introducing viruses, bacteria and bacteriophages and their significance in the field of geology. He also talked about the experimental precipitation of minerals through viruses and their fossilisation.

Prof. Nigel Hughes delivered his intriguing talk about 'Himalayan Uplift and Erosion'. He discussed some of the basic aspects of evolutionary history of the 'Crown Of South Asia'.

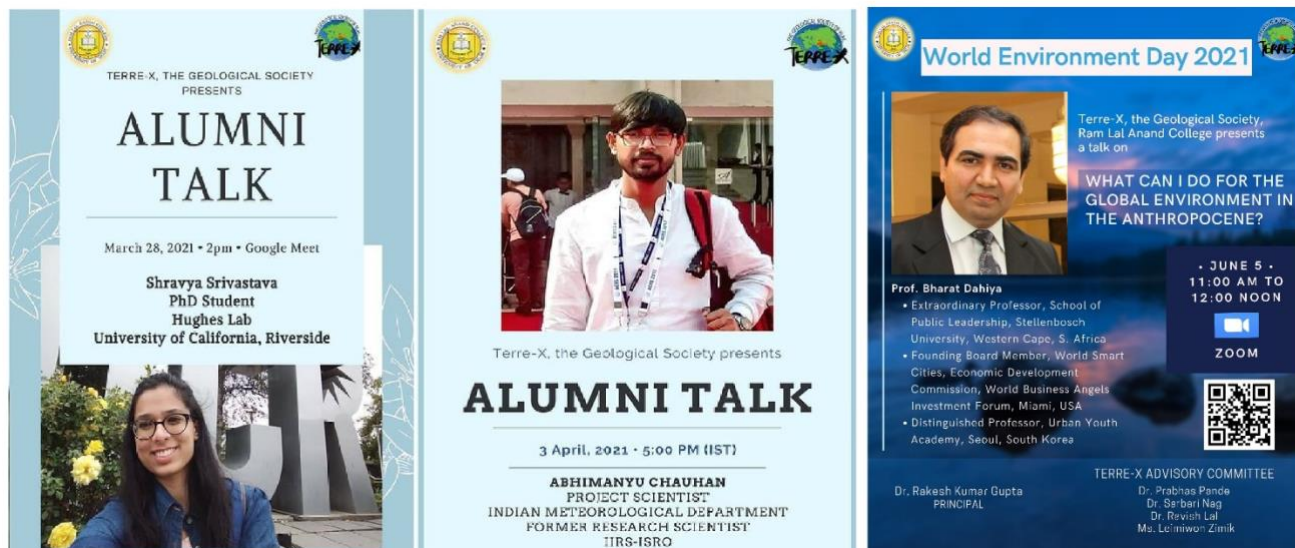
Prof. Ashok Sahni's talk revolved around dinosaurs that were once present in India and highlighted some factors which led to the extinction of the dinosaurs and the *Cretaceous-Tertiary Mass Extinction*. Apart from that, fossils of different dinosaurs like *Rajasaurus* were shown.

Dr. Finkelman addressed that the health and well-being of humankind are intimately tied to the quality of air, water, and soil, all of which are influenced by the regional and local geology where a population resides with the help of several case studies. He also presented the *health impacts of uncontrolled coal fires in Jharia region*. Dr. Finkelman concluded the talk by mentioning the importance of researches in the field of Medical Geology.

Alumni Talk

Two **B.Sc. (Hons) Geology** alumni talks took place under the banner of Terre-X this year. Owing to the pandemic, these talks were held virtually via Google Meet.

Ms. Shravya Srivastava (batch 2014-2017), who is currently pursuing PhD at the Hughes Lab, Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of California, Riverside, U.S.A. She interacted with current students, sharing her experience during college days and her journey from RLAC to University of California USA. Ms. Shravya talked briefly about her current research concerning the Paleozoic marine life of trilobites under which she is attempting to put morphological variations of North American trilobites in the context of sequence stratigraphy to test different hypothesis on the effects of deposition history on morphological variability and phylogenetic ancestry of trilobites which was followed by a small interactive session.



Mr. Abhimanyu Chauhan from the batch of 2009-12, who is currently working as a project scientist in the Indian Meteorological Department talked about his time during his college years and how his decisions impacted his life in the long run. He talked about the reasons he chose Geology as his subject and how it influenced his life. He shared his past work experience with ISRO and the multiple projects he handled there. He enlightened the students demonstrating the use of Bhuvan portal which was made possible by the efforts of ISRO scientists and also imparted knowledge about Remote Sensing as a profession. Towards the end, Abhimanyu lauded the efforts of his teachers for never losing faith in him and inspiring him to be the best at whatever he turns his mind to.

Worlds Environment Day

A talk on 'What can I do for the environment in the Anthropocene?' by Prof. Bharat Dahiya was organised on the occasion of World Environment Day 2021. Prof. Bharat Dahiya is a Professor at the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University.

International Grant Award 2021

To promote the geosciences, the **American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation** (AAPG) distributes grants every year for several activities that support the preservation of data, training and career enhancement for current and future geoscientists. The AAPG Foundation's L. Austin Weeks Undergraduate Grant program annually awards deserving undergraduate level geoscience students and student-led geoscience associations with \$500 grants. This year, two of our students Akash Nair and Jyoti Jangra got selected as a grant recipient of \$500 under L. Austin Weeks Undergraduate Grant Program.



Mr. Akash Nair (IIIrd Year)



Ms. Jyoti Jangra (IInd Year)