

Report on 61st Annual Convention of the Indian Geophysical Union (IGU), held at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi (India) during December 3–5, 2024

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The Indian Geophysical Union (IGU) successfully organized its 61st Annual Convention in collaboration with the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Department of Geophysics, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi. The convention took place from December 3–5, 2024, under the special theme “*Advances in Earth System Sciences with Special Reference to Weather and Climate*” focussing on topics like Solid Earth, Marine Geosciences, and Atmospheric, Planetary and Space Sciences. The three-day event was inaugurated on December 3, 2024, in the Mahamana Auditorium by Dr V.K. Saraswat, a Member of NITI Aayog, who served as the Chief Guest (Figure 1).

During the inaugural ceremony, IGU President Dr M. Ravichandran addressed the gathering (Figure 2) and honoured the IGU awardees for 2024 (Figures 3-4), as well as researchers and postgraduate students. The program received extensive media coverage. During the ceremony Chief guest has released the abstract volume (Figure 5).

The convention featured an impressive line-up of keynote addresses, award lectures, and invited talks, delivered by eminent scientists, including Prof. Harsh K. Gupta, Prof. V. K. Gaur, Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Dr. Ajay Mangalik, Dr. Kalachand Sain and Prof. N. V. Chalapathi Rao. Dr. Ranjit Rath, CMD of Oil India, inaugurated the scientific instrument exhibition stalls (Figure 6).

The IGU Awards have been given to the following eminent scientists, senior scientists, young scientists, young women researchers and postgraduate students.

Dr. K.S. Krishna

IGU-Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Prakash Chauhan

IGU-Prof. K.R. Ramanathan Memorial Lecture Award

Dr. Ajay P. Singh

IGU-Anni Talwani Memorial Prize

Dr. Bhaskar Kundu

IGU-Krishnan Medal

Dr. Som Dutt

IGU-J.G. Negi Young Researchers Award

Dr. Ashutosh Pandey

IGU-J.G. Negi Young Researchers Award

Tabish Khan, S.P. Anand and S.K. Begum received the IGU-Prof. D. Lal Best Paper Award for their paper entitled “Comparison of satellite derived gravity models with ground data: A case study from the Deccan Volcanic Province (India)” published in J. Indian Geophys. Union, 27(6) (2023), 409-425.

Following **Young Women Researchers** received “IGU-Anni Talwani Memorial Grant.

1. Ms. Machitti Pavani, CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, India
2. Ms. Venkata Durga, N., CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, India
3. Ms. Annie Jose, MS University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India
4. Ms. Kurakula Kalyani, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India



Figure 1: Inauguration by Chief Guest Dr V.K. Saraswat.



Figure 2: Presidential Address by Dr. M. Ravichandran.



Figure 3: IGU - Dr. Hari Narain Life Time achievement Award Presented to Dr. K. S. Krishna.



Figure 4: IGU - Prof. K R Ramanathan Memorial Lecture Award Presented to Dr. Prakash Chauhan.



Figure 5: Release of the abstract volume.



Figure 6: Inauguration of Exhibition stalls by Dr. Ranjit Rath.

Similarly, IGU-Prof. Jagdeo Singh and Dr. S. Balakrishna Memorial Grant for Student Toppers – 2024, was awarded to:

1. Jhadhav Tanishka (Osmania University, Hyderabad)
2. Pullaguri Shereesha (Osmania University, Hyderabad)
3. Morusupalli Dedeepya (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam)
4. Valle Ramya Sri (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam)
5. Dokkari Sravani (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam)
6. Mogalapu Amulya (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam)
7. V. Madhu Babu (Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram)
8. K. Jashnavi Sai Harini (Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram)
9. P. Boopathy Raja (MS University, Tirunelveli)
10. Sasipraba, S. (MS University, Tirunelveli)
11. Amol Kamble (SRTM University, Nanded)
12. Prajakta Panchal (SRTM University, Nanded)
13. Tignangshu Das (IIT-ISM, Dhanbad)
14. Yashovardhan Gupta (IIT-ISM, Dhanbad)
15. Jainendra Tripathy (IIT-ISM, Dhanbad)
16. Raj Sahu (IIT-ISM, Dhanbad)

17. Devananda Pradeep (CUSAT, Kochi)
18. Nidhin, P. (CUSAT, Kochi)
19. Bisal Shaw (BHU, Varanasi)
20. Aman Kukreti (BHU, Varanasi)
21. Hemant Yadav (Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra)
22. Neeraj (Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra)
23. Sneha Yadav (Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra)
24. Utkarsh Prajapati (IIT Roorkee, Roorkee)
25. Mridul Sharma (IIT Roorkee, Roorkee)
26. Bharat Sharma (IIT Kanpur, Kanpur)
27. Ayushi Nautiyal (IIT Kanpur, Kanpur)

The conference attracted more than 400 delegates (Figure 7). In addition to the delivered prestigious lectures, over 300 research paper were also presented at different technical sessions. The event provided an excellent platform for meaningful interactions between senior scientists, young researchers, and students, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange (Figures 8-10). During the concluding session, awards were presented by the Chief Guest, Prof. Raghuvanshi, to recognize the achievements of researchers and scholars (Figures 11-12). The IGU Best Presentation

Awards were given under the Young Researcher Program, and the IGU-ONGC Best Poster Presentation Awards were presented in the Researcher and PG Student categories.

IGU-ONGC Best Oral Presenter Award for Young Researcher Program

Ms. Sushrita Dutta (IIT Bombay, Mumbai) – First Prize

Mr. Yezarla Mahesh (CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad) – Second Prize

Mr. Sareer Ahmad Mir (University of Kashmir, Srinagar) – Second Prize

IGU-ONGC Best Poster Presenter Award

Researcher Category

Ms. Priya Maurya (WIHG, Dehradun) – First Prize

Mr. Manan Singh (Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai) –Second Prize

Student Category

Ms. Saranya R. Pramod (CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad) – First Prize

Ms. Chabungbam Yaiyaisana (Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra) – Second Prize



Figure 7: Delegates at 61st IGU Annual Convention.



Figure 8: Interaction at poster sessions.



Figure 9: Interaction at poster sessions.



Figure10: Interaction at poster sessions.



Figure 11: Presentation of award to Young Researcher.



Figure 12: Presentation of awards to Young Researcher.

IGU expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), led by Prof. S. K. Jain, Vice-Chancellor of BHU and Chairman of the LOC, along with Co-Chair persons Prof. A. S. Raghubanshi (Director, IESD) and Prof. G. P. Singh (Head, Department of Geophysics). Special acknowledgement was also extended to Prof. Sanjay Kumar (Rector), Prof. R. K. Mall (IESD and Convener, LOC), and other LOC members for their dedication to ensuring seamless technical sessions and robust delegate participation.

The IGU Executive Committee also acknowledged the support of key individuals, including:

Patron: Prof. Shailesh Nayak
President: Dr. M. Ravichandran
Past Presidents: Prof. Harsh K. Gupta and Prof. V. P. Dimri
Vice Presidents: Dr. Prakash Kumar, Dr. A. P. Dimri, Dr. Sushma Rawat, and Dr. T. Srinivas Kumar

Chief Editor, JIGU: Dr. O. P. Pandey

A special vote of thanks was extended to the technical session chairpersons for conducting the sessions as scheduled and to all Fellows and Members of IGU for their unwavering support. IGU expressed its deep appreciation to the following organizations for their financial support, which was critical to the convention's success:

- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), New Delhi
- Oil India Limited (OIL), Delhi

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), New Delhi
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa
- CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad
- National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai
- National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Thiruvananthapuram
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad
- National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad
- CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat
- CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa
- Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

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Figure 13: Delegates at Concluding session.

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