



## Foreword

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I am very much privileged to write this foreword of the 5th volume of the Journal of Indian Geomorphology, published as a Special Issue containing a memoir and an article by Prof. Leszek Starkel of the Polish Academy of Sciences, who is a long-time friend of India. His words— ‘I consider India as my second homeland’, is certainly right. He is the man who established the bilateral scientific exchange between Poland and India in the field of Geomorphology.

Prof. Starkel is an open minded geomorphologist. He came to India for studying the evolution of Himalayan landform but besides that he also turned his attention towards studying extreme events, especially landslides along with his prime focus. He belongs to the school of process geomorphology. Identification of processes related to geomorphological hazards and their impact on changing landscapes need intensive field investigation and proper understanding, which he has meticulously accomplished. Prof. Starkel’s name and contribution will remain forever present in Indian geomorphology.

He started his collaboration with Prof. Subhasranjan Basu and later on with many

other geomorphologists from different parts of India. I am one of the luckiest persons, who got a few chances to go to field with both Prof. Starkel and Prof. Basu. The first monograph of this collaboration *Rains, Landslides and Floods in Darjeeling Himalayas*, is a worthy document on this part of the country. When we were organising the IAG Symposium on Geomorphology and Environment and the International Workshop on Landslides in Darjeeling & Sikkim Himalayas (27th February – 6th March, 2004), everybody in the organising committee observed that Prof. Starkel would be the best person to be the field guide and accordingly we invited him and he responded with enthusiasm.

This issue is going to be a worthy publication of the Journal of Indian Geomorphology on the occasion of the 9th International Conference on Geomorphology (9th ICG). I must thank the editors of the Journal and the Core Committee Members of the 9th ICG for taking unanimous decision to publish these articles in the present issue of the Journal.

On behalf of the IAG/AIG and the organising committee of the 9th ICG, I wish Prof. Starkel a long, healthy and happy life.