

Preface

Rapid Publication and Diverse Research in Earth Sciences: July 2024 Issue

Welcome to the July 2024 issue of JOURNAL OF GEOINTERFACE. This is the second issue following our transition to a modern design, utilizing advanced typesetting tools. Recognizing the importance of a quick turnaround from acceptance to publication, we are committed to meeting the needs of our authors. With the rise of platforms like Twitter, Instagram Reels, and YouTube Shorts, sharing new research swiftly has become crucial. These platforms allow researchers to disseminate discoveries to a wide audience, increasing their visibility and impact. Lengthy publication processes can impede the timely communication of important work, reducing its influence. By prioritizing quick publication, we ensure that research can promptly engage with and contribute to ongoing scientific discussions. This focus on rapid dissemination highlights our dedication to creating an active and responsive academic environment, where the exchange of ideas drives innovation and progress. Hence we have started uploading manuscripts to the journal website, as soon as they have been accepted for publication, without waiting for the last paper of a volume.

In this volume we present a collection of ten papers that showcase the depth and breadth of research within the Earth and Environmental Sciences. "Earth System Science Panorama" by Prof. Mishra, Patron of JOURNAL OF GEOINTERFACE, offers comprehensive insights into the latest developments, events, discoveries, and research in the fields of Earth, climate, planetary, and environmental sciences..

Groundwater plays a vital role in human health, socio-economic development, and ecosystem functioning, as explored by *Arjun et al.* in their study on the hydrogeochemistry of groundwater in the alluvial and lateritic zones of Kasaragod district, Kerala. *Joseph et al.* focused on the evolving patterns of land use and land cover (LU/LC) within the

Meenachil River Basin over 107 years, utilizing remote sensing techniques. *Baiju et al.* explored the megalithic monuments in Marayoor, Idukki district, dating back to 3000 to 1500 years before present. They highlight the significance of dolmens and rock art in understanding the Iron Age civilization of South India. *Raju et al.* developed the Indian Plate Lexicon (IndpLEX) for the Krishna-Godavari Basin, standardizing stratigraphic data using international guidelines. This resource aids exploration geologists by ensuring consistent stratigraphic nomenclature and supporting the search for mineral and fossil fuel reserves. *Renjith et al.*'s bibliometric study of the Journal of Geological Society of India from 2013 to 2022 highlighted significant publication fluctuations, with a notable increase post-Covid. The study pointed out the regional focus of contributions and gender imbalance, despite JGST's significant influence in geology. *Sadangi* assessed the use of copper slag in cement production, finding it beneficial as a raw mix component and supplementary cementitious material. *VP Singh et al.* conducted a proximate analysis of bituminous coals from five Gondwana mines, revealing variations in heat values. *Sumith SS* used SAR satellite imagery to analyze urban expansion in Kochi from 2015 to 2023. The study employed the Speckle Divergence technique, which demonstrated high precision in detecting urban changes, highlighting significant urban growth. *Mahesh et al.* performed field and petrographic studies of iron ore in the Bayyaram area, identifying haematite in ferruginous sandstones. Finally, *Pradhan and Das* assessed air quality in Joda, Keonjhar, Odisha, finding higher AQI values in mining areas compared to industrial and residential areas. The study highlighted the significant environmental and health risks posed by pollution from opencast mining.

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