

**Dr. M. Prithviraj**, Scientist F / Director in the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi is currently on deputation to the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) since May 2010 as its Executive Secretary.



Dr. M. Prithviraj, had obtained his bachelor degree from Bangalore University and masters degree from Mysore University in Marine Geology. He taught in the Department of Marine Geology at Mangalore University from 1981 – 1984. He then joined the Centre for Earth Science Studies, Trivandrum in 1984, where he completed his Doctorate on Near Inner-shelf sediments. While at CESS his main areas of interest include beach and near shore sediment dynamics of South-Central Kerala and the Lakshadweep Islands. He joined the Department of Space as a Scientist at Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre at Kharagpur where he developed several in-house research projects related to satellite applications for geomorphologic and coastal zone mapping and monitoring, as well as participated in the National Missions of ISRO viz. the Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development (IMSD) and Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) programmes.

At the Department of Science and Technology, he was initially associated with the Natural Resources Database Management System (NRDMS) Program, where he evolved sub-programs on Coastal Zone Management and Conservation, Ground water modeling and Promotion of SAR Interferometry. Later he got involved in the coordination of the Earth System Sciences Program, where he nurtured application of remote sensing in resource evaluation, Water Resources Management, Quaternary paleo-climate reconstruction, Geo-Archeology, Glaciology etc. He is also instrumental in the establishment of several major national facilities for supporting research in earth sciences as well as organizing several Contact Programmes/ Field workshops/ Trainings aiming at scientific manpower development.

When Tsunami hit the coast of India – he quickly organized a team of scientists/ academicians to carry out the studies of the tsunami affected areas both as a means of helping the administration to take scientifically backed decisions and also to understand the effects/ recovery of the eco-system.

He actively participated in the implementation of a UNDP project on “GIS technologies in local level development planning” and exclusively contributed towards implementation of training modules, Remote Sensing Applications and Ground Water Management.

He prepared the mission document on ‘National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem’ – one of the eight national missions identified by the Government of India in the context of Climate Change mitigation initiatives.

Dr. M. Prithviraj has to his credit several national and international publications and has participated in several symposia both in India and abroad and presented papers. He is on several committees at the national level. Has undergone advanced training in the area of – Ocean Mining at Malta and W. Germany, and on SAR Interferometry at Cape Town University, Cape Town. Has participated in research cruises in the Central Indian Ocean Basin and off Kerala and Lakshadweep.