

Dr. Rajiv Nigam has received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Geology from Lucknow University, Master of Philosophy, Doctor of philosophy and Doctor of Science degree in Geology from the Aligarh Muslim University and NORAD Diploma in marine Micropaleontology from Oslo University. Dr. Nigam has made significant contributions in the field of Marine Geology (Micropaleontology) using foraminifera as a tool to understand oceanographic processes and their role in environmental and paleo-environmental assessments.

His main findings are pollution monitoring through relative sensitivity of the benthic foraminifera; development of novel technique to decipher net sediment transport direction by comparisons of living and dead benthic foraminifera; postulating dimorphism as proxy for paleoclimatic reconstructions; development of model for the paleodepth determination in the Arabian Sea and sea level curve for the Holocene; morphogroups of benthic foraminifera as a new tool for paleomonsoonal reconstruction; discovery of 77 years cyclicity in average monsoonal rainfall which is modulated by Gleissberg solar cycle and application of Marine micropaleontology in the field of Marine Archaeology [e.g. settling controversy of dockyard at Lothal and explanation of Neolithic human settlements in Gulf of Cambay through knowledge of sea level fluctuations].

He has pioneered the study of foraminifera in laboratory culture. These experiments provide new insights for some of the fundamental aspects of foraminiferal studies.

Dr. Nigam is recipient of several awards like CSIR Young Scientist Award, Krishnan Gold Medal, National Mineral Awards, M.R. Sahnii lecture award and Bhalla Gold Medal for excellence in Micropaleontology by Paleontological Society of India, H.N.Siddiquie lecture award by Indian Geophysical Union, etc. Dr. Nigam has also taken keen interest in human resource development and successfully guided 11 students for Ph.D. He has published more than 125 research papers in National and International journals. At present he is heading Geological Oceanography Division and Marine Archaeology Unit of NIO.