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Dr Rajiv Nigam has worked extensively in the fields of marine geology, paleoclimate, foraminifera and its laboratory culture, otoliths, sea level changes, paleo-monsoon, paleo-storm, sediment transport, marine pollution, coastal zone and industrial surveys and has headed the Geological Oceanography Division of NIO. He was convener of the 16th Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy (ICMS) held in 1996 and President ICMS, 2002. D. Sc. from Aligarh Muslim University, he has been decorated with several national awards, including Outstanding Young Person Award 1989, CSIR Young Scientist Award 1989, Certificate of appreciation (NIO) 1997, Krishnan Medal by IGU in 1994 and the prestigious Bhatnagar Award. He has been a council member of the Society for Marine Archaeology, Indian Geophysical Union, Paleontological Society of India and a Fellow of the Geological Society of India, South Asian Association of Economic Geologists, Society of Biosciences and Uttar Pradesh Association for Advancement of Science among others. He has published more than 80 papers and more than 50 conference presentations.